

**A History of Thomas Morgan  
and His Families  
with Ann Watkins and  
Nancy Jane Radford**



**by  
Leon S. Pitman  
and  
James K. Morgan**

**2005**

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## **Thomas Morgan, 1821-1915**

This 16 x 20" classic portrait was printed on paper which had been glued to canvas, stretched, and framed. The stretching frame had once been set into a decorative outer frame. When the portrait was discovered in the summer of 2001, it had been stored for many years by an elderly descendant in a children's toy closet. The portrait was damaged and the outer decorative frame was nowhere to be found. A digital image was subsequently made of the damaged portrait and restoration done by computer. We are most fortunate to have located this wonderful portrait before it was lost forever.





## Acknowledgments

This book on the Thomas Morgan family history, which includes valuable photographs, life sketches, and vital data on four generations of descendants sharing common ancestors, was produced with the assistance and cooperation of many people. The authors wish to thank all those who provided essential family information and priceless photographs.

Many contributors made special efforts to write life sketches, search their family records, contact relatives, and identify old and sometimes forgotten family photographs. Special acknowledgment is given to these, and their names are cited in each family group.

Others also provided valuable service and hospitality by allowing us to enter their homes to scan photographs or to copy family information. We appreciate that some of them, such as the Nowlin family members in Canada, got better acquainted with each other as they worked with us to provide photographs and information.

We wish to especially mention the many hours of valuable assistance given by Polly Rubery of Herefordshire, England; Phyllis Lewin, Margie Waters, Vada Burden, LaDera Greenland, LaRae Miller, Dorothy Madsen, Louise Radford, Vonda Byington, Rebecca Freeman, and Sally Pitman.



## Preface

**Thomas Morgan** (1821-1915) was a Mormon pioneer who, in 1855 with his wife Ann and children, emigrated from England straight to the harsh living conditions and Indian wars of the mountain frontiers of Utah. He and his two wives and families were pioneers in the truest sense of the word, clearing new land never before cultivated, building frontier homes, establishing community infrastructure, and contributing to church and institutions of stable community life. He and his two wives and families were involved in the founding or early settlement of at least seven communities in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho. Adapting and evolving, these hardy farmers thrived in the most difficult of circumstances. The descendants of Thomas Morgan and his two wives, Ann and Nancy Jane, now number in the thousands.

It is hoped that those who read and study the history of Thomas and his families will bond closer to their family roots, will further appreciate their origins, and gain a better understanding of the hard work and sacrifices these pioneer Morgans made for us, the descendants. The Morgans were clearly and strongly motivated by their new-found faith in Mormonism. Nothing of their lives after their conversion to the church in 1851 can be understood without knowing and understanding the depth of their commitment to Mormonism as a cause, as a social and religious movement, and as the source of their faith. The rawness and hardships of their pioneer lives are truly amazing to us today.

This story needs to be told but we are hampered by a lack of information directly from the Morgans. Our immigrant Morgan pioneers were not writers. They did not keep diaries. No known letters of theirs have survived. As a result we know little of their daily thoughts and feelings, their joys and griefs. What we have learned has come from three main sources: 1) records of the Morgans found in official documents such as church and civil records, 2) family records, stories, and memories written by a few early descendants, and 3) aspects of the broader history and the social and religious movements that the Morgans were a part of. This third source enables us to elaborate and put into broader context the circumstances and conditions of their lives. We are also fortunate that a few photographs have survived of Thomas Morgan and many of his family members. In our electronic age we are now able to improve the quality of the pictures and distribute them on the Internet.

Thomas Morgan died in Idaho in 1915. The two wives with whom he had children predeceased him. In 2004 there were two living grandchildren of Thomas. Only one of them (Ruth Hansen, born in 1908) was born before his death.



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# **Part 1**

## **MORGAN PIONEER HISTORY**

### **Chapter 1**

#### **Herefordshire, England The Morgan Ancestral Home**

The ancient county of Herefordshire, England, is located in western England and forms part of the English-Welsh border. The largest town is Hereford. The district of Thomas Morgan and Ann Watkins' origin is hilly farmland lying about twelve miles northeast of Hereford. It lies on the east and west sides of River Frome as that river runs southward from Bromyard. The area encompasses the villages of Little Cowarne, Much Cowarne, Bishops Frome, and Castle Frome. The rural parish of Much Cowarne, birthplace of Thomas Morgan, is in the eastern part of that county in the relatively fertile Frome River Valley (pronounce "Froom" to rhyme with "broom") (Figure 2).

For many centuries Herefordshire was a borderland where at least three distinct cultures lived: the native Welsh (Celts), the English (Anglo-Saxons), and French nobles and rulers who built many of the castles in the area.

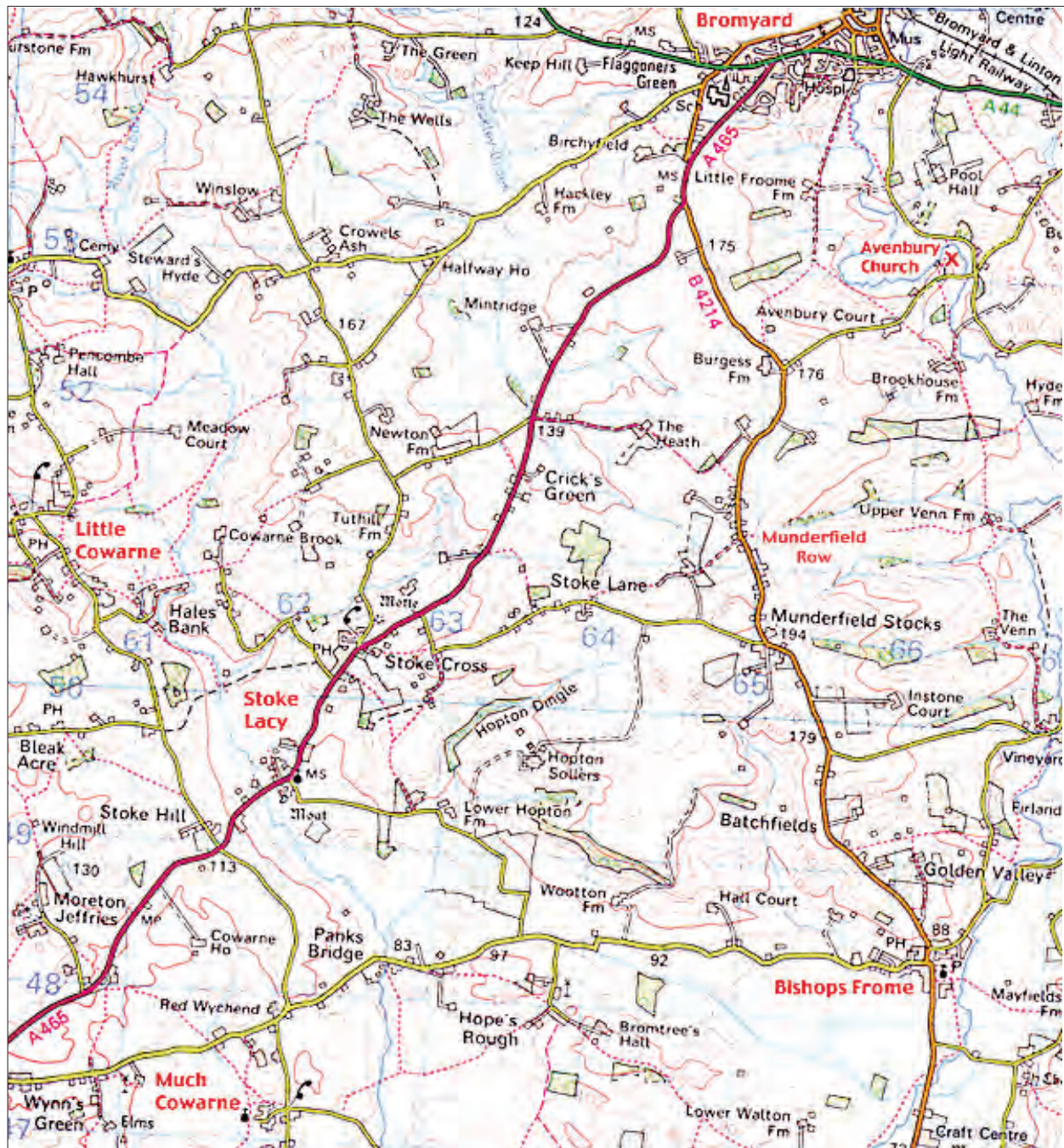
The surname "Morgan" comes from the Welsh language. Our Morgan family may have been among the many Morgans that moved from Glamorgan and Monmouthshire counties in Wales to the Welsh/English border areas some 1200 years ago. Some of our ancestors were named "Gwilliam" which is the Welsh form of William. Other of our ancestral names, "Davies" (meaning son of David or Davidson), and "Watkins" (son of Walter), are names much more common in Wales than England. These names suggest a Welsh origin of at least some of our Herefordshire ancestors. The Welsh were essentially the "defeated" culture, as the English took over many centuries ago and made Herefordshire part of England. Therefore, many of the labor classes in this socially structured area were of Welsh ancestry.

#### **Church of England Parishes and Parish Registers**

Herefordshire was divided into ecclesiastical districts called parishes about 1000 years ago. The parishes in Herefordshire vary in size and geography but typically include tracts of rural land with many small farms and one or more villages. The Avenbury Parish, a small to medium-size parish in Herefordshire and one important to our ancestors, was a little over 3100 acres in 1840. Until the early 1800s life was centered and organized mainly at



the parish level, with the church or parish vestry providing most services we now take for granted from the state, such as the relief of poverty and the registration of vital records. During the 1800s, with the established church fading in importance in people's lives, the state gradually took over such functions.



**Figure 2. Map of Morgan ancestral homeland.** This modern road map of a part of Herefordshire shows the location of communities important in Morgan history. Thomas was born in Much Cowarne, located in the lower left. His wife Ann was born in Avenbury, upper right. As a married couple, they lived in Bishops Frome, which is about 6 miles south of Bromyard. (Source, the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain.)



The parishes had geographically defined borders (Figure 3) and the lands within the parish paid a tithe, originally 10 percent of produce, commuted in the late 1830s to early 1840s to a rent charge fixed by the average price of grains to support the church. The clergy within each parish kept records called Parish Registers. Each year they made copies of these entries and sent them to the Bishop. These are known as the Bishops Transcripts. These records list the baptisms, marriages, and deaths of people living within parish boundaries. Of these records, the Parish Registers are the most complete.

The parishes that played a part in Thomas and Ann Watkins Morgan's early years in England more or less bordered each other and included Much Cowarne, Little Cowarne, Bromyard, Bishops Frome, Stoke Lacy, Avenbury, Castle Frome, and possibly others.

When Thomas gave his birthplace as Much Cowarne, that meant the parish of Much Cowarne and not the village of Much Cowarne. His father was a farm laborer who would have been living in a cottage on the farm where he was working. A most common practice at that time was for the owners or tenant operators of farms to provide housing for their farm labor, either with the farmer's family in the case of single laborers, or in a cottage on the farm in the case of married laborers. Records of baptisms in the Parish Registers list the name of the farm where the family was living, and that farm was their official residence.

Although Thomas lists his place of birth as Much Cowarne in the 1851 census, there is no record of his baptism in the Parish Records of Much Cowarne or any of the nearby parishes. However, baptism records for four of his siblings, one older and three younger, are recorded in the Much Cowarne Parish Register, providing credible evidence that Thomas was born there as well (Figure 4).

The first of Thomas Morgan's siblings baptized at Much Cowarne, his older brother William, appears in the Parish Register in 1819, when his father's residence was given as the Shutters Bridge farm. The next three siblings' baptisms appear in 1823 (Joseph), 1824 (Hannah), and 1827 (James); and in each case the residence is given as Hopton Corner. Shutters Bridge and Hopton Corner are the names of farms in Much Cowarne. While just within the borders of the parish of Much Cowarne, Hopton Corner is well over two miles

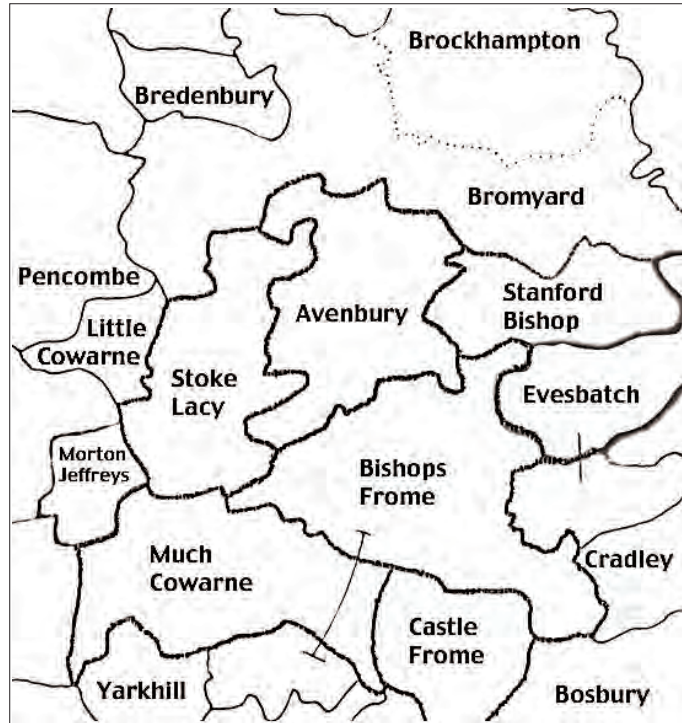


Figure 3. Church of England parish map, including the parishes that were part of Thomas and Ann Morgan's history in Herefordshire.



**Figure 4. The Much Cowarne Parish Church** as it appeared in 2004. In the 1851 census Thomas Morgan reported Much Cowarne as his place of birth. Although the baptism record has not been found, he probably was baptized in this church in 1821. Originally this church had a wood-structure spire built into the top of the tower. In the 1940s the spire was hit by lightning and destroyed by the resulting fire.

from the parish church of Much Cowarne. However, it is only about a half mile from the neighboring parish church of Stoke Lacy. It is quite likely that the Morgan family, which would not have been able to afford horses, usually carried their babies to the nearest church for baptism, and in fact, in the case of the two baptized in 1823 and 1824, we know that is what happened. Although the baptisms are recorded in the Parish Registers for Much Cowarne, it states that they have been entered “according to certificate from Rector of Stoke Lacy.”

To understand why baptisms performed in Stoke Lacy would have been recorded in Much Cowarne, we need to consider the system prevailing at the time for relief of the poor. Each parish was responsible for its own poor. One way that a person obtained the right to a “settlement” was initially by birth, although various things could alter it later in life. So, although the Rector of Stoke Lacy would have been happy to baptize the Morgan children in his church, he did not want to enter them into his own Parish Register. To do that would run the risk that the children would later claim to have been born there, when in fact they had been born in Much Cowarne. So the Rector of Stoke Lacy sent a certificate to the Rector of Much Cowarne to let him know that he had baptized one of his parishioners whose baptism should then be entered into the Much Cowarne Parish Registers.

The age that Thomas Morgan gives in the 1851 census indicates that he was born in 1821, which fits into the natural gap between his brothers William, baptized in 1819, and Joseph, baptized in 1823.

### **The Morgan Family Before 1851**

Thomas Morgan’s parents were married at Castle Frome in 1816 and their eldest daughter, Ann, was baptized at Castle Frome in 1817 (Figure 5). Later baptisms recorded in the Much Cowarne Parish Register indicate that the Morgan family moved between 1817 and 1819 from Castle Frome to Much Cowarne, a distance of about three miles, and again between 1819 and 1823, from Shutters Bridge to Hopton Corner, also a short distance. It is possible that the Morgan family was living some distance away from Much Cowarne when Thomas was born and we have not yet located the record. However, it is more likely that, like his two following siblings, he was baptized by the Rector of Stoke Lacy, and the event

was never entered in the Much Cowarne Parish Registers. Perhaps the Rector forgot to send the certificate or perhaps it was mislaid at Much Cowarne before it was added to the register. So the mystery of Thomas Morgan's missing birth or baptism record remains unsolved, and the best we can do is share with him his belief that he first saw the light of day in Much Cowarne. Those who have searched for his birth record feel there is little reason to doubt him.

Thomas Morgan was just a child of about eight when his father Thomas Morgan died in Much Cowarne at the Hopton Corner farm in 1829 (Figure 6); and he was orphaned at the age of nine when his mother died in 1830. Thomas Morgan's mother, Hannah Davies Morgan, was probably cast into dire financial need by the death of her Army veteran husband in 1829. Army pensions did not pass to widows upon death of the pensioner. She was left with six children, the oldest of whom was 13, the youngest three. Hannah Davies Morgan died a short time later in 1830 at the age of 39 at a farm in Much Cowarne called Witchend Tump.

There are a series of buildings in the Witchend complex, including Black Witchend, Witchend Tump, Star Pitt, Panks Bridge, and Red Witchend. Panks Bridge is listed as the residence of a Hannah Davies, age 75, in the 1841 census. Thomas Morgan's sister, Hannah Morgan, age 15, is listed in the same census living at Red Witchend, working there as

household help. And two other Davies families, in separate households, were living at Star Pitt. If the Hannah Davies living at Panks Bridge was Thomas Morgan's maternal grandmother, then it would suggest that Hannah Davies Morgan moved with the children to her mother's place after the death of her husband. And since Hannah Davies Morgan died soon after this move, it is likely that her mother, perhaps with the help of other Davies relatives, raised the children. Children would normally have gone to work part time before the age of 10, and full time by the age of 10, so it is safe to say that our Thomas Morgan, orphaned at the age of nine, would have gone to work in the fields at this young age.



**Figure 5. The Castle Frome Church** where Thomas Morgan's parents were married and his older sister Ann was baptized in 1817. Churches and graveyards were commonly integrated on the same plot of land.



**Figure 6. This cottage at Hopton Corner** may have been the cottage where Thomas Morgan lived as a child. It has a new roof and the upper part of the fireplace has been replaced, but is still much the same as it was in the 1800s.



In the 1841 census our Thomas Morgan's residence is listed as the Moorend Farm in Much Cowarne. In that census our Thomas Morgan was 20 years old, unmarried, was living in the farmhouse with the family of his employer, as was the custom of the time. He was living in the household of Richard Homes, whom previous research has shown was farming the lower Moorend Farm at the time. In the household were Richard Homes, his wife Elenor, three children, four young men (including Thomas) who were listed as farm laborers, and two young women who may have been household help.

As a farm laborer in Herefordshire, Thomas would have learned many practical skills that were very useful later in his life as a Mormon pioneer. Although Herefordshire and the American West are very different in climates and soils, many crops and animals are the same or similar in both regions. Herefordshire has a rolling, somewhat hilly countryside kept perpetually green and forested by up to four times as much rain as the settled areas in Utah. Fields in Herefordshire required no irrigation. Wheat, apples (for cider), and hops were important commercial crops, but agriculture in the Much Cowarne area was mainly livestock oriented, with most land being devoted to pasture, hay, and fodder for sheep, cattle, and dairy cows. Wool had long been an important crop for sale and for home spinning into yarn. Beef cattle, especially the red-coated, white-faced Hereford named for this county, were very important in Thomas Morgan's region. Vegetables were grown mainly for the family's own use.

Landless farm labor families such as the Morgans rarely saw much real money. Just like on the Mormon frontier later in their lives, they would have traded much of their labor for goods in kind. Young Thomas Morgan's most valuable assets for later pioneering life in America were his knowledge of farm work and his willingness to work at all handy trades needed as a pioneer in Utah and Idaho. His wife Ann likewise would have learned many domestic trades needed to raise a large family in the largely self-reliant communities of the Mormon West. Community cooperation motivated by their faith in building a Mormon Zion was their driving force.

The Much Cowarne Parish lands in the nineteenth century had a population of about 500 people scattered in a rural tract with independent landowners or the landowners tenant-operators living out on their privately held farmlands, and their laborers living on the same farms where they worked. The focal point of this dispersed farming community was the Much Cowarne Anglican church and a few farmhouses. Other of our ancestral communities in the vicinity of Much Cowarne, such as Bishops Frome (where several of Thomas Morgan's children were born), Castle Frome, and Avenbury, are also dispersed rural farming tracts with an ancient Anglican church serving as each community's focal point.

Mormon pioneer communities in Utah were different in many ways from Herefordshire communities. Farmers in pioneer Utah built their homes and farm buildings in town rather than out on farmlands, and cemeteries were separate from the church buildings. These Mormon nucleated farm villages were the result of a high degree of community involvement and cooperation promoted by their religious faith. As founders of Mormon frontier communities in Utah, Thomas Morgan could actually own and have title to the land he settled. As a poor farm laborer in Herefordshire, there would have been no opportunity for him to own land in his homeland.

The Hereford region of England is also especially notable for its many early converts to Mormonism. As early as 1840 the Mormon missionary, Wilford Woodruff, had more success in the Frome River Valley of Herefordshire than any other area, converting whole congregations of Protestants, sometimes including their preachers, in a few weeks of proselytizing. The communities of Castle Frome and Bishops Frome, where the Morgans sometimes lived, saw more than 600 people baptized into the LDS church in 1840. Whole congregations of former Methodists called United Brethren joined the Mormons. As opposition to Mormonism grew, this rate of conversion was reduced but still remained relatively high for many years. Thomas Morgan converted to Mormonism in September of 1851, and his wife in 1852. Thomas and Ann remained faithful members of their new church all of their lives. Mormonism gave them a strong faith-based set of principles and a driving force which enabled them to work cooperatively with other Mormons in founding new settlements in the American West. More about this later.

As discussed above, Thomas Morgan was born in Much Cowarne in 1821. His exact birthdate that year remains unknown as he apparently did not know it himself. But in most available censuses in Britain and Utah, as well as in early LDS church records, his reported age consistently indicates that he was born sometime in 1821.

Thomas Morgan was not given the middle name William at birth. None of the primary documents from early in his life contain the name William or the initial "W." The middle name William was added to his name after his death, probably by a descendant of his son William Thomas. The fact that he named one of his sons William and had an older brother named William may have contributed to the confusion.

Thomas Morgan was the third-generation Morgan son named Thomas. In order to reduce confusion in this genealogy discussion, he will be here designated only as Thomas Morgan III, his father Thomas Morgan II, his grandfather Thomas Morgan I.

**Thomas Morgan III** married **Ann Watkins** 17 April 1843 in the Avenbury Parish Church located less than 5 miles northeast of Much Cowarne. They lived for several years in Bishops Frome, a community of scattered farms adjacent to Much Cowarne. Parish records of Bishops Frome show that the birthplace of most of their first five children was in Bishops Frome as follows: **Edward**, born 17 May 1843; **Elizabeth** 31 August 1845; **Eliza** 11 April 1849; **Mary Ann** 3 November 1851 and died 26 November 1852; **Priscilla** 3 August 1854 (Figure 7).

Another source of information, the 1851 census of Herefordshire, reports Thomas and Ann's family living in Bishops Frome and his occupation agricultural laborer, age 30, born in Much Cowarne. Ann's age is listed as 28, born in nearby Avenbury. Their children: Edward, age 7, is listed as born in Bishops Frome; Elizabeth, age 5, born in Belbroughton, Worcestershire, about 40 miles northeast of Much Cowarne. The birthplace of Elizabeth, if reported correctly, suggests that this family moved temporarily, perhaps to go where farm work was available. The next child, Eliza, age 1, was listed in the 1851 census as born in Bishops Frome. Also living in this family's household in 1851 was Thomas' brother Joseph Morgan, a 28-year-old agricultural laborer from Much Cowarne.

## Morgan Ancestors in Herefordshire

Thomas Morgan's parents were **Thomas Morgan II** (1777-1829) and **Hannah Davies** (1791-1830). Thomas II was christened at the Much Cowarne Parish Church 12 February 1778. He married Hannah Davies 8 May 1816 in the nearby Castle Frome Parish Church. Together they had a family of six children: Ann 1817, William 1819, Thomas 1821, Joseph 1823, Hannah 1824, and James 1827.

A number of short life sketches of our Thomas Morgan III, written by descendants, have been handed down to us. James Morgan and Leon Pitman are in possession of more than half a dozen, some of which repeat parts of others, and all of which contain errors. Late in his life

Thomas gained a bit of local fame as the oldest pioneer in the Rigby, Idaho, area. Newspaper articles were written about Thomas, and he is mentioned in books such as *Milestones of Millard* and *Treasures of Pioneer History*. There is a picture of Thomas, along with a short story about his life, in the book *Pioneer Irrigation*. Thomas won the Rigby LDS Stake Old Folks Day contest for being the oldest man in the stake several times.

A great deal of inaccuracy and confusion was created in Thomas's history by accounts that reported him as being older than he really was. His birthdate was said to be 1808, he is said to have purchased a ferry boat to cross the Snake River when he was 99 years old, married Susan Byington Wilbur when he was 100 years old, and died at age 108. In addition, it was reported that Thomas remembered his father coming home from the Battle of Waterloo and dying one year later from wounds received in that battle.

It appears that Thomas, in his old age, forgot his age and humored the Old Folks Day contest people by using the Battle of Waterloo as a reference point for his age, and this erroneous information found its way into newspaper articles and life sketches. Even the printed programs handed out at his funeral mistakenly listed his age as 107. The 1808 birth year is definitely not correct, as more recent research has shown, especially the research of Polly Rubery, a professional records researcher who lives in Herefordshire, England, and who searched the war records of Thomas Morgan II.



**Figure 7. Home of Thomas and Ann Morgan Family in Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, in 1851.** Working with the 1851 census and other records, local Herefordshire researcher Polly Rubery, along with James Morgan, identified this restored cobble cottage as the likely home of the Thomas and Ann Morgan family in 1851. The wood framework now painted black would have been gray in 1851, and the filler between the studs and beams would have been the color of mud. The original fireplace and bake oven are much the same in this picture as they would have been in 1851. This picture was taken in 2004.



Napoleon's army was defeated by the British army at the Battle of Waterloo, Belgium, on 18 June 1815. Since Thomas Morgan's birth year has been established as 1821, it would have been impossible for him to have remembered his father coming home from this battle and dying one year later. Polly Rubery's research showed that Thomas Morgan II was recruited into the British Army in late 1803 (Figure 8), was given a disability discharge in 1815 because of rheumatism, and married Hannah Davies in 1816. During his 12 years of service, he at times was stationed at British Army posts in what is now Italy and Sicily. He did not participate in the Battle of Waterloo and was not wounded during his many years of army service. He returned home from the army five years before his son Thomas III was born. Though our Thomas III (who came to America) could not have remembered his father coming home from the Battle of Waterloo, he might have remembered as an eight-year-old boy seeing his father in a military uniform and that he was somewhat crippled (from his rheumatism). In later life, recalling this memory, our Thomas III must have concluded erroneously that his father had fought in the famous Battle of Waterloo and was wounded there. (For details about the military service of Thomas Morgan II, see the paper "Thomas Morgan in England" by James Morgan listed in the sources at the end of this chapter.)

Thomas II (1777) was the son of **Thomas Morgan I**, born about 1751 at Bishops Frome, and **Elizabeth Dance**; they married on 28 October 1777 in Much Cowarne. His death date is unknown. Elizabeth was born about 1755 in Much Cowarne and died in 1816 in Much Cowarne.

Thomas Morgan I may have been the son of **Joseph Morgan** of Much Cowarne.

**Hannah Davies**, mother of our Thomas Morgan III, was the first of five children born to William Davies and Hannah Gwilliam (FHL Film #0177961). She was christened at the Bishops Frome Parish Church on 30 November 1791. Nothing is known of her life except that she and husband Thomas lived in Much Cowarne and she died there in 1830 at age 39, leaving her young Morgan children, ages from 3 to 13, without parents. We don't know who raised these children but possibly her parents or some other relatives were involved, as discussed above.

Hannah's father, **William Davies**, was born about 1766 in Cradley, Herefordshire, about seven miles east of Much Cowarne. On 22 February 1790 he married **Hannah Gwilliam**, who was born 1 June 1766 in Cradley. He died in 1850. Hannah died in 1845.

**Hannah Gwilliam** was the daughter of **Joseph Gwilliam** (1739) and his wife **Elizabeth** (1742) of Much Cowarne. Hannah Gwilliam was the oldest child of a family of seven.



**Figure 8.** Large, old book at Kew, England, where British army records were kept. Polly Rubery located the army records of Thomas Morgan's father in these and other records.

### Watkins Ancestors in Herefordshire

Thomas Morgan's wife, **Ann Watkins**, was born in 1821 or 1822. She was christened in the Avenbury Parish Church (Figure 9) 11 February 1822 and at that time was given the name of Nancy, but in all subsequent documents she was identified as Ann Watkins. The name Ann is a common nickname for Nancy. She was the daughter of **James Watkins**, who was born in 1776 and died in 1850 at the age of 73 in Munderfield Row, Avenbury Parish, and **Elizabeth Holland**, who was born in 1784 and died in 1865 at the age of 81 in Munderfield Row, Avenbury Parish. James and Elizabeth Watkins operated a blacksmith shop at Munderfield Row. The 1841 census lists the family in one household at the blacksmith shop: father James Watkins, mother Elizabeth Watkins, with sons James and Joseph. This record lists the occupations of the father and both sons as blacksmith, which means James Watkins' sons were working with him in the blacksmith shop.

The 1851 census, taken one year after the death of James Watkins, lists the oldest son, James Watkins, as head of household, his brother William as blacksmith, his brother James as farm laborer, and his mother Elizabeth as widow. This record indicates that the Watkins sons continued to operate the blacksmith shop for some time after their father James died. The 1851 census, and Elizabeth's death certificate placing her death in the same place as her husband, suggests that Elizabeth lived with her sons at the blacksmith shop until her death. The Avenbury Church lies about 1-1/2 miles north and east of Munderfield Row and about a mile south of the town of Bromyard. There is no village of Avenbury. It is a rural tract of scattered farms within the Parish of Avenbury. For more detail on the Watkins home origin, see "Thomas Morgan in England" by James K. Morgan, 2004.



**Figure 9.** The parish church of St. Mary at Avenbury, an important church in our Morgan history, was abandoned in the 1930s and parts of the structure were removed to be used elsewhere. The remains of the church building and graveyard were overgrown ruins in the year 2004.



By the 1850s anti-Mormon fervor had reached a high pitch in western England, in part due to its cult image fostered by the news media and opposition from the Church of England and other Protestants. Also, British families by this time knew that if one of their own joined the Mormons, he or she was destined to emigrate from England and abandon their friends and family forever in order to cast their lot with this “strange cult” and be taken to an isolated desert wilderness in far-away America. We can’t blame them for being angry or despondent at the thought of this loss. To some, losing a child to the Mormons was a fate worse than death.

A story about Ann’s experience handed down to the Morgan descendants (as recorded by Alvin Elmer Morgan and others) is that her parents were so irate about her interest in the Mormons that they threatened to disown her if she were to join the Mormons. She in fact did not join the church until after her father’s death. Later when she decided to emigrate to the new Zion, some members of her family threatened to kill her if she ever came back. Such stories cannot be verified, but experiences like these were relatively common among pioneer Mormon converts. Ann Watkins, according to her descendants, grieved over the anger her family expressed when she joined the Mormons.

Family records, in part verified by the 1841 and 1851 census of Herefordshire, indicate that James and Elizabeth had a family of at least six children, as follows:

Mary Watkins, baptized 6 September 1812  
 Elizabeth Watkins, baptized 31 July 1814  
 James Watkins, baptized 31 March 1816  
 William Watkins, baptized 8 March 1817  
 Nancy “Ann” Watkins, baptized 11 February 1822  
 Joseph Watkins, baptized 7 November 1824  
 Emma Watkins, baptized 27 May 1827

James died in Avenbury 23 June 1850 (before Ann joined the church). He was the son of **John Watkins**, born about 1750. Ann’s mother, **Elizabeth Holland**, was born in 1784 in Handbury, Herefordshire, and died 26 March 1865, ten years after her daughter Ann Watkins Morgan had migrated to America. Elizabeth’s father was **James Holland** of Handbury, born about 1758; her mother’s name was Nancy, born about 1762.

An important summary point made about Ann Watkins’ name in the paper “Thomas Morgan in England” is that Ann Watkins, contrary to the belief of many descendants, was not given the middle name Ollen at birth. None of the primary documents from early in Ann’s life contain the name Ollen. However, her mother’s maiden name was Holland. The fact that Thomas and Ann’s youngest son, James John, named a daughter Ollen suggests that Ann may have used some form of this name or that an altered form of the name Holland found its way into the family history records, and James John adopted it as a name for his daughter. The origin of the name Ollen is probably explained by the way it is pronounced in England, dropping the “H” at the beginning and the “d” at the end. An American hearing an Englishman say “Holland” could very easily hear “Ollen.” Such changes in names are common through the passage of time.

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## Chapter 2

### Immigration to America

#### From Liverpool to Kansas

According to membership records, Thomas Morgan joined the Mormon Church in September 1851 and Ann in February 1852, probably when they were living in Cobwell Cottage (now Cobble Cottage) in the Instone Woods on the James Gardiner farm just north of Bishops Frome. A decision to join with the Mormons was not one taken lightly. On one hand, it was typically met with scorn or ostracism from friends and relatives, and on the other hand it meant leaving family and home and forsaking all they knew for a long and arduous trip to the frontier of America. Poor families such as the Morgans could not make such a trip without the help of the Mormon Church and perhaps others. So when it came time for Thomas to apply for passage on a ship to America, he made his application to Mormon Church authorities in England. In February of 1855 he and his family were granted space on the ship *Siddons*, chartered by the Church especially for Mormon emigrants. To help secure this passage, he paid an initial small deposit of £4/0/0 (four pounds, no shillings, no pence) for “steerage” (third class) down in the lower deck of the ship. This amount would have been equal to several weeks of work as a farm laborer in England at that time. He would owe an additional £10/0/0 at some time in the future. He probably paid this debt in the form of labor after reaching Utah.

On February 27, 1855, they boarded the *Siddons* in Liverpool, England, and set sail for Philadelphia, arriving there on 21 April 1855. All members of the family were listed except for their oldest son Edward. Edward had already emigrated to Utah with his uncle Joseph Morgan in 1853. He and his uncle Joe boarded the ship *Elvira Owen* in Liverpool on 15 February and arrived in New Orleans March 31, 1853. They crossed the plains together, Edward being only nine at the time, in a wagon train led by Jacob Secrist.

Many of the 430 LDS passengers embarking on the *Siddons* were being assisted financially by the LDS church fund called the Perpetual Emigration Fund (PEF). Poor members who qualified for emigration under the auspices of the PEF borrowed from that fund and were to pay back into the fund over a period of time after they arrived in Utah. Payment could be with money or in the form of labor on various church-sponsored projects. PEF emigrants were formed into PEF companies so that the church could more easily charter ships and riverboats and acquire supplies for wagon trains for each of such groups.

Thomas Morgan and his family traveled with a PEF group when they boarded the ship. The Church kept careful records of all member emigrants who traveled in LDS-sponsored groups, especially where PEF funds were used to charter ships or aid in the emigration process. Although the Morgans were listed in the Church’s *Siddons* departure log as

“ordinary” passengers rather than as PEF-sponsored, they traveled with PEF passengers all the way to Utah, and this helps us track their route. Mormon Elder John S. Fullmer was put in charge of the 430 LDS members on the *Siddons*.

Many of the ships crossing the Atlantic in the 1850s were driven by steam engines, but sailing ships were still used in the 1850s because they were cheaper than steamships. The *Siddons* was an old three-masted, 895-ton square-rigged, sail-driven ship built in 1837 and “retired” in 1854 after 17 years of commercial service. On this chartered voyage in 1855, it struggled against westerly winds that slowed it down when plying the Atlantic to America, resulting in one of the longest trips in its history. The Morgans’ cheaper steerage tickets for the deck down below those of the second- and first-class passengers did not make for a comfortable cruise. On the voyage taken by the Morgans, it took the *Siddons* nearly two months to cross from Liverpool to Philadelphia because of “contrary winds.” U.S. Customs listed the Thomas Morgan family as passengers from the *Siddons* who disembarked there, and every family member, even baby Priscilla, declared two trunks of goods each.

The author, Conway Sonne, states that after a railway ride to Pittsburgh, “The Saints from the ship *Siddons* [in 1855] took an unnamed steamboat from Pittsburgh to St. Louis, arriving there May 7. . . . The next day some of these emigrants continued on [up the Missouri River] to Atchison, Kansas, on board the 297-ton sidewheeler [steamboat] *Golden State*. . . . Other emigrants from the ship *Siddons* boarded the steamboat *Polar Star* . . . which left St. Louis early in May . . . ” for a ride up the Missouri River to Atchison, Kansas, where they disembarked.

It is about 600 miles in a straight line from Pittsburgh to St. Louis. But, of course, the rivers are not straight. They meander considerably, making actual river distance from Pittsburgh to Atchison probably close to 1200 miles. Early in the summer the emigrants from the *Siddons* gathered about four miles west of Atchison with many other Mormons at the outfitting point known as Mormon Grove, Kansas.

### **From Kansas to Utah, 1855**

The LDS church official who founded Mormon Grove was Milo Andrus, the leader (Stake President) of all Mormons in the St. Louis area. During the summer of 1855 he directed thousands of Mormon immigrants to Mormon Grove, where he could organize them into several wagon train companies, and purchase cattle, oxen, and other supplies needed to get them started on their way to the Salt Lake Valley. The Morgan family remained in Mormon Grove until the very last wagon train to leave there that season. They possibly worked on the farm at Mormon Grove, which grew potatoes and other vegetables for the immigrants. That last train departed Mormon Grove on August 5. It was led by Milo Andrus. The Milo Andrus wagon train company was identified in migration records as a PEF company consisting of 452 persons. It arrived in Salt Lake on October 24, 1855.

Few words were ever recorded by anybody about this particular wagon trip across the plains. Our Morgan families wrote not a word of their adventures on the seas or across the plains. Their leader, Milo Andrus, wrote a letter to his friend when the train had crossed the Big Blue River in Kansas on August 15, and again 30 miles up the Little Blue River in Nebraska on August 22. He wrote a third letter when his wagons were 12 miles east of Fort

Laramie, Wyoming, on the Platte River on September 13. In these letters Elder Andrus says almost nothing about the journey itself, except for a few casual references to a few people who got sick and that very few had died, and on the whole everyone was generally in good health and good enough spirits to sing in the evening. However, the author William Slaughter had this more colorful description of the Mormon wagon trains: "They began to wend their way westward over the boundless plains that lie between us and the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Slowly and majestically they moved along, displaying a column of upwards of three hundred wagons, cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, mules, chickens, turkeys, geese, doves, goats, and . . . lots of men, women, and children. In the typical company was . . . the farmer, the merchant, the doctor, the minister, and almost everything necessary for the settlement of a new country."

When his wagon train got to its destination in Salt Lake Valley on October 24, 1855, Thomas Morgan was listed in the roster of this train. Three of the people who died on this journey were identified as William Davies, a child Elizabeth Davies, and child John Davies. It is not known if these Davies, who bore the surname of Thomas' mother, were relatives of the Morgans.

Though nothing in particular is known about the Morgans' experience while crossing the nearly 1200 miles from eastern Kansas to the Salt Lake Valley, we can extrapolate from historical sources and the diaries of others which illustrate typical experiences and dangers as the immigrants, united in purpose, trudged toward the unknown with hope for a new start and a better life.

Wagon trains could find their way along the route much easier if they followed designated rivers wherever possible. Most Mormon wagon trains followed the established Mormon Trail, which left from Winter Quarters near present Omaha, Nebraska, and followed the Platte River upstream along the north bank. The Platte flows eastward from central Wyoming to the Missouri south of Omaha. Wagon trains leaving from Kansas, such as the one the Morgans were in, headed for the south side of the Platte River, which they reached near present Hastings, Nebraska, by following up two rivers out of Kansas (Big Blue and Little Blue Rivers). Though the Platte was not deep enough for riverboats (in fact it was very shallow in some places), it led to an easy pass through mountains in Wyoming and it had necessary resources, such as water, better grazing grass, and woods in some places.

Upon reaching Fort Laramie, which was on the south side of the Platte in eastern Wyoming, the wagon trains would stop for provisions and a rest. Continuing westward, beyond present Casper, Wyoming, the immigrants headed for a broad open pass more than 7500 feet above sea level called South Pass, which is a "continental divide" that divides headwaters of rivers. Eastward from the pass, rivers like the Platte flow east to the Missouri. West of the pass, rivers flow south or west to the Pacific or the Great Salt Lake. Traveling through South Pass signifies that the immigrants, with relative ease, had gone around some major mountain ranges of the Rockies. From South Pass the wagons headed toward Fort Bridger or Fort Supply near present Evanston, Wyoming, where they again obtained provisions. The last leg of the journey was to traverse Utah's Wasatch Mountains through present Echo Canyon and Parleys Canyon down into the Salt Lake Valley.



From the Journal of John William Dutson, a native of Herefordshire whose family crossed the plains in 1857, and who later became neighbors of the Morgans while living in Millard County, Utah, we read (page 24):

The company got an early start and traveled without difficulty in the morning. The cattle were very quiet to all appearances until they got to Rattlesnake Creek. Our cattle [then] became very restless. We moved on. Some Sioux Indians came to us. They were friendly toward us. We got dinner and then moved on. . . . I have just been back and cautioned all in my ten to rope their lead cattle that were wild. When I had just got to the second wagon . . . of the ten, a team in the third ten run, starting [startling] the whole train. At this moment I took a large club and prepared myself to do the best I could to save the lives of the people. I yelled to the women and children to stay in their wagons and not to jump out. But many of them jumped out while the wagons were coming in all directions. Many were run over and some were expected not to live. I broke [stopped] the train [from stampeding] as well as I could with a club . . . and thereby saved the lives of many that were lying on the road that jumped from the wagons. Brother Terry and I . . . administered [a prayerful healing blessing] to them as we found them on the ground. Some of them would ask us to administer to them a number of times . . . they began to recover. There were a great many injured but no one was killed. We then carried those that were hurt . . . to their wagons, pitched their tents and stopped to attend to the wounded.

This quote illustrates many things about traveling in a Mormon wagon train during the Mormon migration, for example, “getting an early start” in the morning. According to author H. H. Bancroft, migrants were awakened as early as 5 AM to begin breakfast and preparations for the day’s journey. In a large train it could take up to two hours to make such preparations. Departure by daybreak would be a common goal. John Dutson mentioned Rattlesnake Creek which was necessary to ferry across. Even though the Mormon Trail stayed mainly on the north bank of the Platte River, several tributary streams enter the Platte from the north. Many of these streams were easy to cross but some were hazardous, time consuming, and dangerous.

The Milo Andrus company left from Kansas and likely traveled up the south bank of the Platte, the trail commonly traveled by non-Mormon immigrants en route to Oregon. The south bank also has tributary streams that had to be crossed. Especially big is the South Platte River which enters the main Platte near the present city of North Platte, Nebraska. Esther Stevenson, who was in the same wagon train as the Dutsons, wrote in her diary (page 22):

One difficulty we had to meet was fording the larger streams where there were no ferries. Always there was the danger of quicksand. All who were able had to wade across, and many times we came out of the almost ice-cold water with our clothes wet to our necks and had to walk on while the sun dried them. It was a terrible experience for those who were delicate, and many times some were almost overcome in the stream.

Adult men and older boys carried children and some women across the streams.

John Dutson also commented on being visited by friendly Sioux Indians. Indians were feared as they frequently visited the Mormon trains. Indians typically approached a wagon train in small numbers and when they did they faced hundreds of armed people in the wagon train, but there were usually no threats on either side. The Indians were usually curious and friendly, sometimes wanting to trade for goods. Sometimes, during the night, Indians would attempt to stampede cattle in order to steal them. But rarely was a Mormon traveler killed by Indians while crossing the plains. There were other dangers far worse than the threat of Indian violence.

Anything that would stampede cattle was of great concern to the travelers, as clearly indicated by John Dutson, for such an event would wreak havoc on wagons and injure or kill people. Dutson's diary contains comments every day about the conditions of the cattle being driven along as well as the oxen pulling the wagons. He was constantly concerned about whether the cattle would get nervous and stampede. John's references to "administering" to the injured refers to a well-established Mormon practice. Men with priesthood authority, while placing their hands on the head of the injured, said a prayer and blessing, calling on the Lord to heal the person. We can imagine that many people asked for and received this rite while immigrating to Salt Lake.

John Dutson also refers to "wagons of ten." This refers to the way the wagon train company was organized. Dutson was a Ten Captain. Each wagon train was led by a hierarchy of captains with one commander in charge of the whole train. The commander would have subordinate captains for each unit of 100 wagons, each led by a Hundred Captain. They were further divided into units of fifty wagons, each led by a Fifty Captain, with each of them divided into units of ten wagons, each led by a Ten Captain.

Strict discipline and order were required by all captains. Alcoholic drinks and even swearing were forbidden. Disputes between travelers were quickly settled or mollified. In contrast to often contentious relationships of migrants in non-Mormon trains, Mormon migrants addressed one another as "brother" and "sister" or "elder." The well-being of the whole and harmony were positively promoted as necessary tenets of their faith and for the success of the trip.

Dutson also refers to women and children as being in their wagons. Actually, whether people rode in wagons or walked varied greatly from train to train. Beginning in 1856 companies without oxen pulled all their goods in wooden handcarts, walking all the way. But even the ox-drawn wagon trains were often so heavily laden with provisions that there might not be enough room in the wagons for the able-bodied to ride, except for the teamster. Riding in a wagon, none of which had springs, was bumpy and jarring. Most people walked all the way, wearing out their shoes early on, some going barefoot most of the way. Another problem with the wagons was that they frequently broke down. Milo Andrus mentioned in his letters that his company had some problems with broken-down wagons which usually slowed the whole train down.

When camping for the night, the wagons were arranged end for end in a circle like a fort. Cattle were driven into the corral and watched by assigned herdsman. Campfires and all camp activities were outside the circle. Some slept in wagons, others in tents. Buffalo

chips or sagebrush were common sources of fuel when there was no wood. After a dinner, hymns were sung in the evening to bolster morale and foster a sense of community. At about 9 or 10 PM a bugler, when available, would call taps for prayers and bedtime. Each night some men would take their turn at guard duty, a job which rotated in turn to all able men and older boys. The day began typically at 5 AM. By 7 AM they were on their way, hoping to travel from 10 to 20 miles, grazing livestock along the way.

Wagons were pulled mostly by oxen, though mules or more expensive horses were sometimes used. In addition there were horsemen available to help control cattle, go on hunting excursions or any needed quick maneuvering. Some wagons had small hen coops attached to the back or a place for a few small pigs. Food provisions for the trip largely consisted of dry foods such as wheat flour, bacon, and ham. Some milk was drawn from a few cows. Game was hunted along the way, but hunting for food was unreliable.

The migration of some 70,000 Mormons from places as diverse as Eastern America, Canada, England, the European continent, and South Africa, by ships, canal boats, trains, riverboats, and then on foot in wagon trains to the vast unknown Great Basin of the west in Utah is one of America's legendary pioneer stories. But, for the Mormons, it was only the beginning of the story.

### **Early Utah Settlement**

The first home in Utah for the Thomas and Ann Morgan family was in the town of Kaysville, located about 20 miles north of Salt Lake City on a somewhat narrow strip of good farming land between the Great Salt Lake and the Wasatch Mountains. Thomas's young son Edward and Thomas's brother Joseph were already settled in Kaysville two years before Thomas and Ann's family arrived. Thirteen-year-old son Edward must have been happy to see his family again. Kaysville was a frontier Mormon settlement founded in 1850. After more than a year there, Thomas and Ann had their first Utah-born child, William Thomas, born in Kaysville 26 December 1856.

Thomas's brother Joseph married Hannah Weaver in Kaysville in 1856 and they remained there the rest of their lives. She was a native of Bishops Frome and a descendant of the Watkins family. Joseph died on 8 June 1886 in Kaysville. Hannah died in 1916. He and Hannah had six children, all born in Kaysville.

### **The Echo Canyon War, 1857**

Family tradition states that Thomas Morgan participated in the Echo Canyon War. The so-called Echo Canyon War was not a war in and of itself but rather a part of a larger military campaign called the Utah War which took place during the winter of 1857-58. President James Buchanan, choosing to believe rumors that Brigham Young and the Utah Mormons were fomenting a rebellion against the United States, sent an army on its way to Utah in the fall of 1857.



Upon hearing that the U.S. Army was on its way to Utah to crush the Mormons, Brigham Young called the Nauvoo Legion (the territorial militia) from rank and file Mormons and sent troops of Mormon men to Echo Canyon and to Wyoming to put up a defense in advance of the Army. Echo Canyon is the main route into Utah from southwestern Wyoming and was the route taken by essentially all immigrants that came to Utah across the Great Plains. Interstate 80 now runs its length.

Daniel H. Wells, the leading Mormon commander, recruited the men, especially from the Provo area, to go to Echo Canyon to prepare to fight the U. S. Army should that army enter Utah from Fort Bridger, Wyoming. Hubert Howe Bancroft, in his *History of Utah*, page 513, writes that in late September of 1857:

Daniel H. Wells, in command of 1,250 [Mormon] men, supplied with thirty days' rations, established his headquarters at Echo Canyon. . . . Through this canyon, the Mormons supposed, lay the path of the invading army, . . . On the western side of the canyon, dams and ditches were constructed, by means of which the road could be submerged to a depth of several feet of water; at the eastern side stone heaps were collected and boulders loosened from overhanging rocks so that a slight leverage would hurl them on the passing troops, and parapets were built as a protection for sharpshooters.

In late 1857 a small Mormon guerrilla force managed to burn the U.S. Army's Fort Bridger before the U.S. Army reached there, and burned many of their advance wagons of supplies, stole many of their cattle, and set fire to rangeland to be used by the army's livestock.

In the meantime the Mormon people of northern Utah were being prepared by Brigham Young to burn their homes and crops and flee to the south if the U.S. Army succeeded in reaching the Salt Lake Valley. Some 35,000 settlers of northern Utah did in fact flee temporarily to areas south of the Salt Lake Valley. Some sources of our Morgan history claim that this was the time Thomas Morgan moved south to the Provo area and was called to the Echo Canyon War while there.

Later, in 1858, diplomacy on both sides won the day, the U.S. Army entered Utah peacefully, and based itself at Camp Floyd on the western side of Utah Lake. The army at Camp Floyd, known as Johnston's Army after its commander Albert Sidney Johnston, remained at its Utah camp until 1861 when the soldiers went back East to fight in the Civil War.

No shots were ever fired in Echo Canyon, and there was really no hot war there where Thomas Morgan might have been. But the Utah War had an effect on all the Utah Mormons, as once again they were shown to be vulnerable to the threats of their enemies. Once again they had to face the possible destruction of their homes and farms and all that they had put into the land as pioneers. Once again they might have had to be moved by force. Regardless of whether Thomas Morgan was or was not among those men called to defend Echo Canyon, the Morgan family would definitely have felt and feared these trying times in the winter of 1857-58.

### **The Morgans in the Goshen Valley, 1857-1866**

The book *Memories That Live* compiled by Emma Huff and others contains details about the founding of two towns, Santaquin and Goshen, located in southern Utah County just south of Utah Lake and about 30 miles south of Provo. Thomas Morgan is identified in the above source as a founder of both of these communities, which are only about seven miles apart. He first appears in a list of settlers arriving in 1856 in what is now Santaquin to help build a fort and settlement there, then called Summit. Because of Indian hostilities at that time, the settlers were required to build their homes close together and to construct a wall around the whole to form a fort.

This fort was very well arranged and enclosed all the houses. . . . In this year, 1856, a rock schoolhouse was built in the fort. This building was 32 feet by 18 feet and the roof was made of cane [reeds] hauled from the shores of Utah Lake. In 1856 farming was begun south and east of the fort. . . .

This pioneering effort took place more than a year before the Echo Canyon War. But records seem contradictory about where Thomas Morgan was in 1856. His first Utah-born child was born in Kaysville in December of 1856. Obviously Ann was in Kaysville. A special census of Utah in 1856 lists the Thomas Morgan family as residents of Kaysville that year. Some family sources say that the Morgans moved south at the time of the Echo Canyon War (1857). It is possible that Thomas went down to Santaquin ahead of his family, where he found work for a short time. The Morgan family is not listed in any other sources as ever having a residence in Santaquin.

In 1857, Thomas was listed among the first pioneers of the town of Goshen, about seven miles to the west of Santaquin. In the book *Memories That Live*, page 484, we read:

In the early spring in 1857, a little band of pioneers [including Thomas Morgan] entered the Goshen Valley and began to build homes for themselves (Figure 10).

. . . They built a few log houses of one room each, but most of the people had dugouts. [But because] Indians roamed the valley [the settlers] were forced to build a wall around their homes.

According to author Raymond Steele:

Old Fort Goshen enclosed about two acres laid out in a square. . . . The walls were built of large cedar posts and filled in between with sod from the nearby meadow, . . . thus it jokingly came to be known as Fort Sodom. The buildings inside the fort were mostly log cabins with sod chimneys with gunny sacks hung up over the windows in place of glass. Some of the other dwellings inside the fort were merely dugouts. At night, what cattle, horses, and sheep the people had were locked up in the enclosure.

According to granddaughter Martha Morgan Eames, the Morgan family at first lived in a dugout outside of the fort. If Thomas was indeed called to Echo Canyon, it would have been during the fall of 1857, perhaps while the Morgans were in the process of making a home in Goshen. In 1859 the settlers of Goshen were ready to abandon the fort. Over the next two years various settlers selected and settled on different but nearby townsites. But eventually the current townsite of Goshen was favored over other sites.

In 1859 the LDS Bishop of Goshen, Phineas Cook, following church advice, had a "genealogy record" made of all members of his ward. The Morgan family members are listed in this record, which includes their names, birthdate and place, names of their parents, original baptism date, and their 1857 rebaptism date (all pioneers were asked to be rebaptized), and other data. This is a most important beginning source of genealogical information on this family because it tells where to begin our Herefordshire

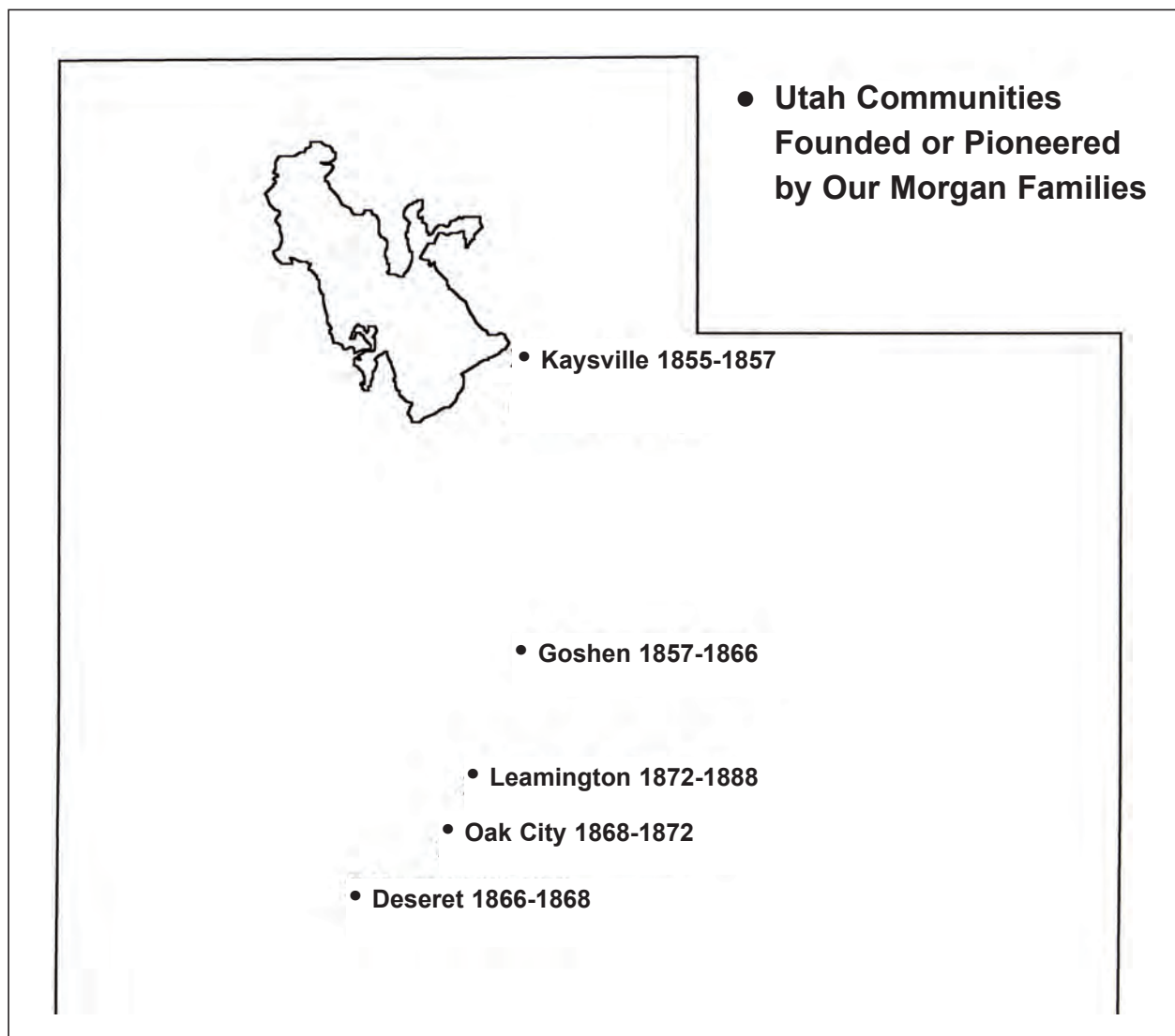


Figure 10. Map showing communities pioneered by Thomas Morgan families.

ancestral research. The record also includes the Gourley and West families who had children that later married Morgan children in Goshen. Oldest daughter Elizabeth married Robert Gourley in 1862 in Goshen. Oldest son Edward married Sarah West in Goshen, a native of England.

While living in Goshen, Thomas and Ann had their second Utah-born child, James John, born 1 February 1860; and their third, Everal Hannah, born 27 June 1862. In the 1860 U.S. census of Utah, dated October 5, 1860, the Morgan family was listed as follows: Thomas, age 38, a farmer, with real estate valued at \$150, and personal property valued at \$500. Ann in the census was also 38, Edward 17, Elizabeth 15, Eliza 10, Priscilla 6, William Thomas 2, and James John 7 months. The real estate value indicates that Thomas owned his own home, which as an original pioneer he would have been entitled to, but no land records for this period in Goshen have been found.

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## Chapter 3

### The Morgans in Millard County, Utah, 1866-1888

#### The Founding of Deseret

In 1866 the Morgan family made another move, this time to the newly founded settlement of Deseret in Millard County, central Utah. Deseret is located less than 10 miles from the present-day town of Delta, now a fertile farming area on a flat plain traversed by the Sevier River. The Deseret pioneers who first came to this site in 1860 had selected a potentially fertile area, but one subject to frequent flooding from the Sevier River. These first families lived in makeshift dugouts for many months until better homes could be built. The vast sagebrush and willow flatlands were too far from a source of woods to obtain building logs. Consequently, sun-dried adobe brick made from the clay of the Sevier was a favored building material for their cabins and houses.

The settlers in Deseret by early spring of 1866 had become increasingly insecure because of the Pahvant Indians, a local band of Utes, who frequently camped in the Deseret area and regarded Deseret as part of their traditional territory.

The Morgan families, in fact, made this move to Deseret during the so-called Black Hawk War. This war developed in 1865 when the Ute chief whom the Mormons called Black Hawk took the lead in an effort by discontented Indians to take back their traditional lands and help their people survive. The Ute Indians, who had never been farmers, hunted and gathered their resources from native habitat. They had seen their traditional lands turned into Mormon towns and farms, dramatically reducing the food supply of the Indians. In the mid-1860s Mormons in settlements over much of central Utah were being attacked by organized Indian war parties as well as by small bands who, out of desperation and want of wild game, stole and butchered Mormon cattle. The Pahvant band of Utes on the western side of Millard County resorted to stealing cattle from the Deseret settlers, and clashes often occurred between these usually friendly Indians and their white neighbors.

Brigham Young ordered the Mormon settlers of Deseret to organize a militia to protect themselves from the Indians. In the spring of 1866, when Morgans were making the move, 45 Deseret militiamen hurried to an abandoned Mormon campsite six miles north of Deseret. Indians had butchered stolen cattle there. The militia hurried back to Deseret just as the Indians were approaching the town. Despite threats from the Indians, a peace conference was arranged with Black Hawk and his 72 painted warriors. The Indians accepted an offer from Deseret negotiators that they could have all the cattle they could use or they could choose war with the Deseret militia. In the end the Indians agreed to the offer. The militia followed the Indian party until it disbanded and headed



in separate directions, thus ending the only real Indian threat to the Deseret residents. Indian threats continued, however, in other central Utah towns. Some descendants of our Morgan and Radford families believe it likely that at least some of our ancestors were in the Deseret militia, but records have not been found.

To prepare for their defense, Brigham Young ordered the men of Deseret to build a fort. After a site was selected, work on the fort began in June 1866. John Whitlock Radford was the construction supervisor of the fort which involved a crew of 98 men. To encourage the rapid construction of the fort, Radford divided the workers into companies, and the company that completed its section first was to receive a dinner and dance from the others. Indeed when the fort was completed on July 25, 1866, after 18 days of hard work, the settlers celebrated under a willow shelter inside the fort with a heifer barbecued for the occasion.

Careful records were kept of the work done by the 98 men who labored on the fort. The amount of time each worker applied to the effort was listed as a dollar value. For instance, Thomas Morgan's work was valued at \$89, while that of his son Edward Morgan was valued at \$12, Robert Gourley (Elizabeth Morgan's husband) \$4.50, Franklin Radford \$10.50, and John W. Radford \$75. But these men were never paid in money. In the founding of Mormon settlements it was standard practice to pool labor in cooperative efforts to build public works projects like this fort. The value of each worker's labor would instead be applied toward acquiring rights to land, water, or other resources.

It is enlightening to visit the remains of this fort today near the present town of Deseret and see what hard work our ancestors had to perform while under the threat of attack. It is amazing that some of the walls of this fort still remain today even though they were built of material that does not preserve well. The walls, called by the settlers "Spanish walls," were made of adobe mud dug from ditches just outside of the fort walls, leaving depressions along the outside of the walls which probably added to their deterrence against any enemy that might approach the fort. The mud was mixed with straw in pits, using the feet of oxen to do the mixing. The structure measured 550 feet square with corner bastions ten feet high and walls three feet thick at the bottom, tapering to a foot and a half at the top. The fort never became a walled village, as did Goshen and many other Mormon towns, because shortly after it was finished Indian hostilities abated because of a treaty. On several occasions the fort was used as a corral to protect cattle from continued Indian rustling.

Deseret settlement was a long way from woods or forests for harvesting logs. So once again, as they had done in Goshen, our Morgan ancestors first lived in crude dugouts. These looked like half-buried cabins, the floor of which was four or five feet below the ground with steps going down into usually one or two rooms. In Deseret no stones or logs were easily available, but adobe bricks were formed and dried in the sun. In Deseret adobe bricks were sometimes used for the portion of the walls above ground. In better dugouts, dirt walls below ground could be lined with adobe but more often they just remained dirt. Small willow branches from the river were plentiful and could be bound together and placed on rafters above to form a roof. Willow roofs covered with dirt sod helped keep out the sun and storms.

Living in dugouts, however temporary, was not pleasant. People had to share these hovels with bugs and vermin of all kinds living in the dirt. Sanitation was a problem. Death rates were high, especially among children, as will be discussed later. The roofs did not entirely shed heavy rains, so the dugout roofs would leak and drip mud down onto the dirt floor and the family's possessions. They would, however, protect the occupants from cold weather and they were safer and preferable to sleeping in wagon boxes outside.

But housing and Indian threats were not the only problems faced by our ancestors at Deseret. While the Sevier River was a good source of water for irrigation, and the soil good in the area, harnessing the water for irrigation was a challenge. The Sevier River at Deseret is in a sandy and clay-filled channel that made building permanent dams difficult. The shallow riverbanks there had no rocks or hard surfaces on which to anchor a dam. Dams built to divert irrigation water were washed away with every flood, usually in spring or early summer of every year, often after crops were already planted. Every time a dam was lost, the very existence of Deseret was threatened because, in this dry country, food could not be produced without irrigation.

Early records from Deseret list members of our families working on various community projects and record how much they worked. For instance, working with a gang of more than 30 men in May and June of 1866, Thomas Morgan is credited with digging 24 feet of an irrigation ditch, John W. Radford 27 feet, and Francis Ryset 9 feet. Again in 1866, for building a corral John W. Radford was credited with 10 feet, Thomas Morgan 6 feet, and so on.

In the founding of Mormon settlements it was a tenet of the Mormon faith that men and women throughout the Mormon-settled West would pool their labor in cooperative efforts to build up the new Zion. They were not paid in money as they were not motivated by the "rugged individualism" which so often characterized the "cowboy culture" image of the founding of the West. Early Mormons took community cooperation even further when they temporarily experimented with a form of communalism called The United Order of Enoch. The United Order, practiced for a few years in many Utah towns, required all members of a community to turn over to the ward bishop all of their goods as well as to pool their labor. All residents were to receive goods as needed, and there was to be no rich or poor among them. Oak City Ward records show that Morgans and Radfords did sign up for the United Order for a brief time. This extreme form of communalism did not work well anywhere in Millard County, so efforts to implement it were discontinued within a few months. The common pooling of labor did continue, however, as our families were to move again.

### **The Founding of Oak City**

In 1868, after the main dam at Deseret broke for the fourth time, settlers there began looking for a new place to live. In fact, by the end of 1870 Deseret had been completely abandoned and left as a ghost town. (It was re-formed again as a new town in 1875.) Our Morgan families were among the first Deseret settlers to look for new opportunities on higher bench lands east of the Sevier River plain and closer to mountain canyons and grazing lands.



By 1866 or 1867 Thomas Morgan and his friend John Whitlock Radford were among a few who began grazing cattle during the summer in the Oak Creek Canyon area located about 20 miles northeast of Deseret. The Oak Creek area had already become a source of firewood and fencing material for the settlers at Deseret. In the spring of 1867 a sawmill was built at Oak Creek and a road was opened to the timber of the adjacent canyon. By 1868 the Morgan and Radford men set up camp in the Oak Creek area to ranch on a more permanent basis. Together they, with two other men, fenced in 10 acres north of the future townsite where they planted a wheat crop. After the main dam at Deseret broke from floods in 1868, Millard LDS Stake President Thomas Callister and other officials visited the families at Oak Creek and “conducted a survey for a new town large enough to settle between fifty and one hundred families.”

In a relatively short time Oak Creek (later called Oak City) became a typical nucleated Mormon town of farmers who lived on town lots rather than on farmland out away from town. Each town lot was a farm home. Barns, granaries, chicken coops, and other farm buildings were built on town lots behind the owners’ houses, while farmlands away from town remained clear of buildings. Each lot in town had to be fenced because the livestock, which were herded in common, were sometimes pastured on the town’s unimproved wide streets. Gardens also needed protection. Since fencing wire was not yet available, many of the fences were “bull” fences made of cedar posts fastened cross-member style to form a continuous line of X’s, as shown in the photo under “Historic Pioneer Works” in our <http://macsheep.tripod.com/Morgan/> Web site.

Most of the former residents of Deseret moved together to Oak Creek and its new town, Oak City, showing again the level of community cooperation. Labor was pooled for community projects like building common fences such as the bull fence. Irrigation projects required pooled labor as did herding cattle and sheep on common lands, gathering logs, making adobe for houses, and the construction of churches and schools. Their reward (besides knowing they were helping in the building of Zion) was a house lot in town and farmland outside of town.

Diverting the local stream, Oak Creek, and digging the necessary ditches were among the first tasks of Oak City citizens, according to authors Leo Lyman and Stella Day. The pioneers began hauling logs from the canyon, digging dugouts, making adobes, and building homes before the coming of the frost and snow. Some of the people brought the doors and windows from their homes in Deseret. Others completely dismantled their Deseret house and hauled the material to the new settlement and reassembled it on their newly acquired lot. None of the houses had more than two rooms, and some were one room with a lean-to. All the houses had dirt roofs and many had dirt floors. The dugouts were like good-sized cellars so they had dirt walls and floors, with a door and steps that led down below ground level. Many lived in dugouts in the hillsides while they were hauling logs from the canyons and dismantling houses at Deseret to provide material for their new residences. There is a picture and a drawing of dugouts in the “Historical Pioneer Works” section of our <http://macsheep.tripod.com/Morgan/> Web site.

The Oak City townsite was laid out in a typical Mormon grid pattern with wide streets running straight north, south, east, and west. The official Mormon survey divided the site into 24 blocks, with 8 lots in a block and each lot 10 by 20 rods (1 rod =

16.5 feet). The streets were 8 rods wide, equal in size with the original survey of Salt Lake City and most other officially surveyed Mormon towns. Almost two dozen families from Deseret and some single men filed for ownership on lots in the new town of Oak City that first year, 1868, as Deseret was being abandoned.

Thomas Morgan's first property in Oak City was lot 1, block 11, located on First Street North on the west side of Main Street. In 1871 he filed on lots 1, 6, and 8 in block 11 north in Oak City. John Whitlock Radford's place was lot 5 on Block 3, located on the south side of Center Street between Main and First West. Among the settlers that first year were other members of our families who got lots as well, including Edward Morgan, Joseph H. Lovell and wife Leah Ellen Radford, George Morrison and wife Eliza Morgan, and John Franklin (Frank) Radford. John Whitlock Radford's stepsons, Melvin Ross and Richard (Dick) Ross, also got lots in Oak City.

During the winter of 1868-69 the community founders combined efforts and fenced an additional 360 acres of farmland directly west of town. During the first year Oak City residents held school and church services in individual homes. The next summer (1869) they returned to Deseret and dismantled the school/meetinghouse that had been dedicated just before abandonment of Deseret. They reassembled the building in Oak City where it served as the community's first public building.

### **The Founding and Move to Leamington**

A natural consequence of the limited water supply provided by Oak Creek was that it led people to search other possible settlement sites in the county. In the summer of 1871 several Oak City residents scouted out an area on the Sevier River 12 miles north of Oak City and tried again to build a dam on the soft river channel, as they had done in Deseret a few years before. Again the dam washed out a day or so after it was built.

In the spring of 1872 original Oak City resident Thomas Morgan surveyed another dam and ditch site in the same area on the Sevier River about 12 miles north of Oak City. Work immediately began on both the new dam and ditch by people, mostly from Oak City, who eventually were to become residents of yet another pioneer community; this one was later called Leamington, after a town by that name in England. The ditch, when finally finished, differed from previous ditches in that its intake waters were far enough upstream on the Sevier River that it did not need a dam. It is still in use today and is known as the Morgan Ditch.

Hereafter, Thomas Morgan found other opportunities to survey for ditches. According to the Floyd Bradfield notes, Morgan used a device known as a "spirit level" attached to a board six feet long and about a foot wide. In 1884 he was hired by a rancher from Texas named Samuel P. McIntyre to survey the much larger McIntyre Ditch which diverted water on the north side of the Sevier to the McIntyre Ranch in Leamington. This ranch was the largest in Millard County, employing up to 50 people, especially during summer, to care for the herds, and to grow hay and haul it into the state's largest barn. Some Leamington women worked on the ranch as cooks.

Unlike Oak City, Leamington was never officially surveyed by a Mormon church official so it never took the grid pattern street form. Leamington, to this day, is primarily

a one-street town with scattered farms outside of town. Thomas Morgan, considered the leading founder of Leamington, first built a dugout there in about 1872, above which he later built a log cabin. This was the year after he married Nancy Jane Radford as a plural wife. A few years later, perhaps by 1878, he built an adobe house just to the south of his cabin. The Morgan adobe is still there. Morgan's cabin also still survives but has been moved to Leamington's LDS meeting-house property and restored as a museum piece. It is made of cedar logs cut from the mountain slopes to the east (Figure 11).



**Figure 11. Thomas Morgan cabin.** This cabin was built in 1872 by Thomas Morgan, lead founder of Leamington, Utah. It was built over his dugout which was used as a cellar after the cabin was built. This cabin was restored and moved to public land near the Leamington LDS chapel.

The Morgan adobe house remains on its original site on what is now the property of the Finlinson family, whose ancestor George Finlinson bought it from Tom Morgan in 1888 (Figure 12). The current owner uses the old house for his tool shed. It is a one-and-a-half story, two-room house which had a lean-to kitchen on the back (north) side. The lean-to (no longer there) contained a small staircase that led to the upper half-story bedroom area. The house, with front door to the south, measures about 21 feet by 17 feet. With reference to the USGS topographic map of Leamington, Thomas Morgan's adobe house and land are in the NE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 10, Township 15 South, Range 4 West. The Morgan Ditch runs to the west, traversing his property just a few feet north of the adobe house.

This house, the most important physical artifact of the Morgans in Millard County, stands as proof that the English-born Tom Morgan had learned adobe making, a craft unknown to him in Herefordshire, and one that Mormons had learned only after coming to the dry lands of Utah. The walls are about 12 inches thick and contain two tiers of sun-dried adobe bricks, somewhat larger than standard modern kiln-baked bricks. The walls contain no wood studding or built-in supports of any kind, so the walls had to be thick in order to support their weight and the weight of the roof. The house originally had a dirt floor, but some walls inside were at one time whitewashed with a thin white lime plaster as a means of making them look better.

For the first few years in Leamington, Thomas Morgan functioned as an unofficial presiding elder of the approximately 75 LDS church members there. In 1876 he was designated the branch president under the jurisdiction of the Oak City Ward and its bishop. But branch members were hampered in the 1870s without a building to meet in.

On at least one of his frequent visits to Leamington, Bishop Platte D. Lyman of Oak City and its Leamington Branch wrote in his journal, page 5, on January 29, 1877, that he





**Figure 12. Thomas Morgan adobe house in Leamington, Utah,** viewed from the east side. It originally had a lean-to on the north side that was used as a kitchen, and the upper opening visible on the north side was a stairway from the kitchen to the second floor. Remains of the stairway can be seen protruding from the bottom of the opening. The front door is on the south side and cannot be seen in this picture. The room closest to the viewer was a small bedroom, and the room farthest from the viewer (west side) was a living room. The current owner put a tin roof on the house to protect it from the weather but there is considerable deterioration of the adobe in the southeast corner. Picture taken summer 2002.

held a meeting at Thomas Morgan's place for about 75 people. He was accompanied on that trip by Millard Stake President Thomas Callister and a choir from Oak City. The relative small size of Morgan's house and cabin would require that such a meeting be held outside, on this occasion, on Morgan's property. On September 22, 1877, Elder Lyman wrote on page 16 that he and his companion John W. Dutson "put up at Edward Morgan's, and held a meeting the next day in Melvin Ross's home and had a very good time." The next week, on page 17, Elder Lyman wrote that he reorganized the Leamington Branch presidency making Lars Neilson president, with Ole Jensen and Edward Morgan as counselors. On February 28, 1878, Elder Lyman writes, on page 28, that he "broke the road through the snow for several miles . . . to Leamington where we stayed overnight with sister Ann [Watkins] Morgan." By this time Ann had a home separate from Nancy Jane, as was typical of most polygamous families.

LDS Branch meetings continued to meet at the homes of the residents until 1880 when Leamington got its first church building. Built of logs, it was replaced by a stone and brick church completed in 1903. At that time Leamington was organized into a ward separate from Oak City.

Sometime in the 1870s Thomas Morgan, having land squatter's rights as an original Leamington pioneer, became the legal title holder and owner of at least 160 acres of land, possibly more, on the south bluff and channel of the Sevier River in Leamington. Over the years he sold some of it, usually in small parcels. For instance, on September 25, 1882, he sold about 34 acres to his former son-in-law, George Morrison, for \$250. Also, on September 23, 1882, he sold just over 3 acres to Nels P. Nebel, and on that same day another 2 acres to Silas Smith, the grandfather of his son William's future wife, Sarah Lovina Ross.

In 1879 Thomas Morgan sold about 2 acres of right-of-way land to the Central Utah Railroad. The new railroad was completed in Leamington in August of 1879, making Leamington the first Millard County town to have a railroad. In that year residents of the county would travel to Leamington to board the train for Salt Lake City and other places. The railroad (now the Union Pacific) runs east and west through Leamington and passes within a few tens of yards south of Tom Morgan's adobe house. In 1885 Tom Morgan sold right-of-way land to Millard County for a road which today runs east and west on the south side of the railroad.

By the early 1880s Leamington farmers were cultivating nearly a thousand acres, including some along the new McIntyre Ditch, which was dug in 1884 and ran along the north side of the Sevier River. Farming remained precarious in Leamington, with the dam and canal occasionally washing out. In addition to agriculture and work on the railroad, the community's economy flourished from the cutting of cedar posts and the making of charcoal in four dome-shaped kilns east of town, two of which today remain as landmarks. These kilns, built in the 1880s in part by Eliza Morgan's husband George Morrison, are less than two miles east of the old Morgan property. Much of the charcoal made from cedar wood cut in the Leamington area was baked and charred in the kilns east of Leamington and was probably shipped by rail to fuel the Beaver County mining camp at Frisco in south central Utah.



## Chapter 4

### The Forming of a Clan: The Morgans and Radfords

It was while living in Deseret and Oak City that the Morgans and Radfords became close associates. From the mid-1860s into the 1890s members of these two large families joined in several marriages, resulting today in thousands of Morgan/Radford descendants. The two families largely remained together in the founding of other towns in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho. Records of their movements strongly indicate that the two male elders, Thomas Morgan and John Whitlock Radford, were good friends and perhaps persuasive leaders of their families. Both were polygamists, further adding to the size of their families (Figure 13).



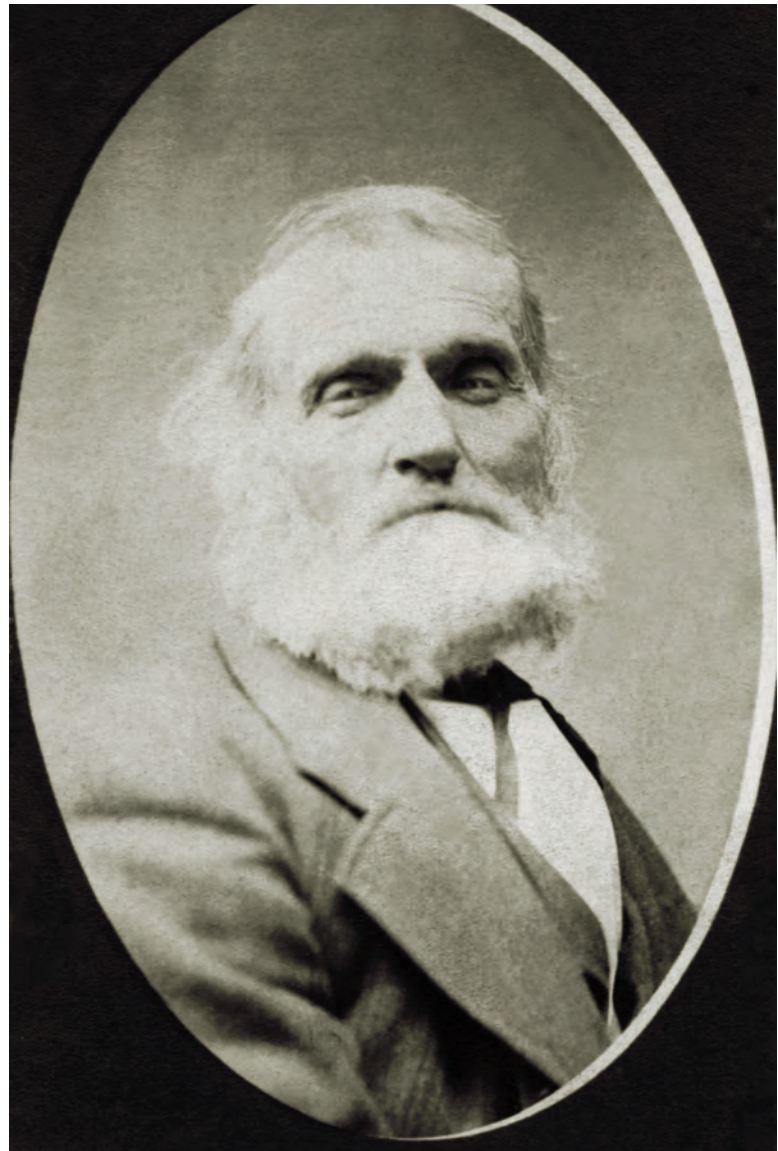
**Figure 13. John Whitlock Radford and wife Leah Smith Ross Radford**, parents of Nancy Jane Radford, second wife of Thomas Morgan. This, the oldest of our pictures, represents an early method of photography in which the image is first exposed on a tin plate (tintype) rather than on film. This photo was once mounted on an oval frame, the outline of which can still be seen. The pearls on Leah's collar were handpainted with a brush. This picture probably dates to sometime in the 1860s.



**John Whitlock Radford** (Figure 14) was born in 1814 in Franklin County, Tennessee, where his mother's family, the Petty family, lived. But when he was a young boy John's family moved to Cumberland County, Kentucky, near his father's relatives. His ancestors are known and well documented back to the 1600s in Colonial Virginia. As an adult John moved to southern Illinois, where he married his first wife **Jane Whyte**. But this first marriage failed and produced no known children. In 1846, now a Mormon convert, he married **Leah** (or Rachel Leah) **Smith Ross** in Nauvoo, Illinois.

**Leah Smith** was born on the frontier backwoods of Gibson County, Tennessee, daughter of Richard Smith and Dianna Braswell Smith. Her ancestors are also well documented and extend to the Appalachian frontier of western Virginia and South Carolina. She first married **Andrew Jackson Ross**, who later died in an accident. Richard (Dick) and Melvin Ross, two sons of Leah and Andrew Jackson Ross, survived to adulthood and became fellow Utah and Idaho pioneers and were part of the Radford family. Leah's parents, Richard and Dianna, and her uncle James Agee Smith all became early Mormon converts and Utah pioneers (Figure 15).

Leah and John Whitlock Radford had a family of seven children, the oldest of whom was **Nancy Jane Radford**, who in 1872 became a plural wife of Thomas Morgan. She was born in 1847 at the Mormon way-station of Mt. Pisgah, in present Wapello County, Iowa. Nancy, born on a frontier, lived all of her life in pioneer locations. By 1850



**Figure 14. John Whitlock Radford (1814-1889)**, portrait probably taken in the early 1880s.

her family lived in the newly founded town of Provo, first in a fort. As a young girl her family moved to Fillmore in 1853. When she was 13 years old, she married Francis Frederick Ryset, a German immigrant who, according to family tradition, first worked in Utah as a civilian butcher for the U.S. Army at Camp Floyd near Utah Lake.





**Figure 15. Ross Family in 1880.** The older woman in front is Leah Smith Ross Radford, sitting at the right side of her second husband, John Whitlock Radford. Most others in the picture are descendants of Leah and her deceased first husband Andrew Jackson Ross. The young woman Sarah Lovina Ross seated on the right became the wife of William Morgan, son of Thomas. Leah's son Richard Ross, seated on the left, and his brother Melvin Ross, not in the picture, later became pioneers in Eastern Idaho. Most of the individuals in this picture are listed in the John Whitlock Radford and Richard Ross households in the 1880 census of Kanosh, Utah.



Nancy Jane and Frank Ryset had two daughters born in Fillmore, but both had died before they moved to Deseret in 1866. While at Deseret, before 1870, they had three sons, all of whom were still living when the 1870 census was taken in June of that year. (Their surname is spelled Resek in the 1870 Millard census, page 333.) In about 1871 young Melvin Ryset died in Oak City, followed in 1873 by his brother Don Carlos, leaving only Francis Daniel (Frank) Ryset to reach adulthood. Frank Jr. and his mother became part of the Morgan family when Nancy married Thomas Morgan as his plural wife in 1871.

In about 1870 Frank Ryset Sr., according to oral tradition, left his wife Nancy Jane, ostensibly to look for work at a mine in Wyoming. We have no documentation as to how this “desertion” occurred, but this same Frank Ryset was in the 1880 Wyoming census in Smith Fork (present Cokeville), Wyoming area, living with another wife Mary, a young daughter Addie, and stepdaughter Mary Wilson.

Descendants of Frank Ryset Sr., as represented by Helen Simper of Taylorsville, Utah, and Clayton Conn of Springville, Utah, state that information handed down to them by oral tradition suggests that Mr. Ryset was going to come back for Nancy Jane after he found a job in Wyoming, but that “only his horse came back without Frank,” leading his wife and family to believe that he had been killed, perhaps by Indians. After more than a year Nancy Jane’s father, John Whitlock Radford, and her Oak City Bishop John Lovell, who were convinced that Frank Ryset was dead, persuaded Nancy to marry Thomas Morgan as a plural wife. Ryset descendant Helen Simper claims her ancestors believed Nancy Jane was not happy about this “forced” marriage, nor was Thomas’s first wife Ann.

We will never know with surety what was in the minds and hearts of our ancestors about their marriage arrangements, but records show that the Morgan polygamous family remained together, traveled together, and raised their families together for the rest of their lives. Ann and Nancy Jane lived in separate houses, however, as discussed below.

Other marriages between Morgans and Radfords also occurred. John Franklin (Frank) Radford, the third child in John Whitlock and Leah’s family, married Priscilla Morgan, daughter of Thomas and Ann, while living in Oak City in 1871. Daniel H. Radford, sixth child in John Whitlock and Leah’s family, married Everal Hannah Morgan, Thomas and Ann’s youngest in 1878, probably in Leamington. Frank Ryset Jr., son of Nancy Jane (last name later changed to Ryset), married Sarah Priscilla Morgan, daughter of Edward (Ted) Morgan and Sarah West and granddaughter of Thomas and Ann. William Morgan married Sarah Lovina Ross, daughter of Melvin Ross, and granddaughter of Leah Smith Ross Radford. Most of these families and others stayed together, traveling in about 1888 and 1889 to Wyoming and later to Idaho to pioneer new areas and raise large families of their own.

### **Polygamy in the Morgan-Radford Clan**

In the 1870s and 1880s the Federal Government passed new laws to crack down on Mormon men who were practicing polygamy. Indeed polygamy was a federal offense,

and federal marshals were scouting Utah territory to catch polygamists. The marshals expected Mormon women to assist them in catching the polygamists, but no such help was forthcoming. In fact the LDS members, both men and women, did everything they could to forewarn, hide, and protect polygamist men when marshals were in town. As far as is known, Thomas Morgan and John W. Radford were the only men in our families to have had polygamous marriages. Apparently they were never caught by federal agents.

Records indicate that while in Millard County, Thomas Morgan's two wives, Ann and Nancy Jane, had separate houses, a most common practice for polygamous men who could afford it. In the 1880 census Ann is listed with Thomas as part of his household, comprised of those two, enumerated as household number 9 in Leamington. Nancy Jane and her children—Francis (Frank), John Thomas, Martha, and Joseph C.—comprised a separate household enumerated as household 11. Also living with Nancy Jane was 44-year-old Ann Gustin, mother-in-law of James John Morgan, who married Amberzine Gustin, discussed below.

Further evidence that Nancy Jane and Ann lived in separate houses is provided by the Floyd Bradfield history notes on Leamington. Bradfield, an early lifetime resident of Leamington, wrote that "Thomas Morgan built the adobe house for his second wife [Nancy Jane]." Rich Finlinson, grandson of George Finlinson who bought the Morgan property in 1888, believes that Thomas Morgan maintained a home for one wife in Oak City and another home for the other wife in Leamington. Bradfield notes say at a later time that, "Thomas Morgan had two wives, one lived with him on the Morgan place and the other lived across the street to the east."

Birth records for Nancy Jane's children born in the 1870s all list Oak City as their birthplace. Leamington Ward membership records show that Nancy Jane Morgan's records were forwarded to Leamington from Oak City in 1883. Nancy's last child, Lydia Almeda, was born in Leamington in 1888, and her son Joseph Charles was baptized at age eight in Leamington in September 1888. Clearly Nancy Jane lived in Leamington in the 1880s, but the Bradfield records and the census indicate that she did indeed have a separate house.

It appears from records that Thomas Morgan may have had a third wife in Oak City and Leamington. The 1870 census of Millard County shows a person named Elizabeth Morgan, age 66, listed in household number 17, close to Thomas Morgan, age 48, in household number 19 in the District of Deseret [actually Oak City]. The 1880 census of Millard County shows Thomas Morgan, age 60 [actually 58], with wife Ann, age 62 [actually 57], wife Nancy Jane, age 34, and wife Elizabeth Morgan, age 80. Elizabeth is enumerated by herself in household 10 between wife Ann and wife Nancy Jane. All three women are identified as Thomas Morgan's wives.

Researcher Connie Morgan and others believe this elderly wife was Elizabeth Rock Dutson, born in Herefordshire, England, in about 1802. This Elizabeth had had several children by her first husband James Dutson, before moving to Goshen, Utah (as shown on her family sheets at <http://www.familysearch.org/>). While living in Goshen with her youngest daughter, she apparently became acquainted with the Morgans. The Ancestral File

shows she married somebody named Thomas Morgan in Goshen in 1865, but the birthplace and age do not correspond to that of our Thomas Morgan.

But obviously no children were born to this elderly Elizabeth and Thomas even if her marriage to our Thomas ever took place. This appears to have been a caretaker marriage that he had with Elizabeth. It was not uncommon for polygamous Mormon men to marry older women with whom they may or may not have had a conjugal relationship. Brigham Young and many top leaders of the church married elderly widows in addition to younger woman of childbearing age. Elizabeth Rock Dutson died in 1886 and is buried in the Goshen Cemetery next to her daughter Elizabeth.

There are other indications that Thomas had “caretaker” intentions with another woman. In the 1880 census of Leamington, living in the household with Thomas’ wife Nancy Jane was a 44-year-old widow named Ann Gustin. She is identified as a person with “senility” and is crippled or bedridden. According to Millard County court records in 1882, Thomas Morgan wrote a letter to Millard County Court, saying that he had an “old insane woman” living with him from Juab County; he asked the court for some money to help cover the costs of taking care of her. The court declined, advising him to take up the matter with Juab County. Ann Gustin was born Martha Ann Green, in Indiana, and was the widow of Thomas Gustin and the mother of Amberzine Gustin, wife of James John Morgan. There are no indications that Thomas ever married Ann Gustin. Records indicate instead that he had the heart and generosity to take care of an invalid at his own expense (and the help of Nancy Jane).

John Whitlock Radford also had a plural wife named **Polly Stevens Adair**. He and Polly were married by Brigham Young in 1853 while President Young was on an official visit to Fillmore. She was a widow whom he had known for many years. Her husband had died in Iowa before their trek to Utah, leaving her with two young children (Thomas and Susannah Adair). The 1860 census of Fillmore County shows that Polly and her children lived next to the Radfords in her own household. Polly died in Fillmore in 1862, after giving birth to the last of her four children with John W. Radford. Two of Polly and John’s children, Martha and Melissa Radford, survived to adulthood and were raised in the Radford household. But after these daughters were married, they no longer remained with the Morgan-Radford clan. Daughter Martha and her husband William Bader settled in Nampa, Idaho, where they raised a large family. Melissa first married William McKee, sheriff of Pioche, Nevada; but after his death in 1883, she came back to Leamington and married a local man, Joseph Huff.

On 15 November 1868, John Whitlock Radford married another woman as a plural wife. Her name was **Mariam Elizabeth Sampson Killian**, a widow formerly married to Thomas Killian, who had died 15 September 1862 in Parowan, Utah. She and Thomas Killian had a large family. In 1870 Elizabeth and her two young sons John and Daniel lived next to the Radfords in Oak City. She was a native of Ohio. No known children were born to her and John Radford. She and John later divorced.

Some family members have stated that perhaps Melvin Ross, Nancy Jane’s half brother, was a polygamist. In the 1880 census this Melvin Ross was in the territorial penitentiary in Sugar House, Salt Lake County, Utah. That prison was used especially

for nonviolent offenders and polygamists, but there is no record that he was a polygamist and no record has been found to indicate why this Melvin Ross was in prison in 1880.

Bishop Platte D. Lyman of Oak City kept a diary, now available on microfilm. Lyman used to visit the Leamington Branch of the church and sometimes stayed over Saturday nights so that he could tend to the needs of Leamington Branch members on Sundays. He sometimes spent the night with Mel Ross and his family. Bishop Lyman, a proponent of polygamy, chose to stay with families who were active in the church when coming to Leamington.

Melvin Ross's first wife, Julia Elizabeth Smith Ross, according to records, was the first schoolteacher in Leamington, beginning in 1877. When Julia died from an accident in November 1878, Mel had no other known wife at that time. He remarried in July 1879 to Mary Ellen Hadden. When he went to prison in 1880, two of his young sons, Don Carlos and James Melvin, went to live with their grandparents, John Whitlock and Leah Radford, who at that time were living in Kanosh, Millard, Utah, as recorded in the 1880 census. Two other of his children, Silas and Emma, lived with their other grandparents, Silas and Sarah Smith in Leamington, according to the 1880 census.

If Mel in 1880 had had a plural wife in addition to his second wife, one would think that at least one or more of his children would have gone to her household rather than that of their grandparents. His wife Mary Ellen Hadden Ross in 1880 lived in Star, Beaver County, Utah, with her single half-sister Cecilia and near her parents. The only child she had with her at the time was two-month-old Effie, fathered by her husband Mel Ross, but born in April 1880 while he was in prison.

Among the women of the Morgan-Radford clan, only Polly Stevens Adair Radford and Nancy Jane Radford Ryset Morgan had children while living as plural wives. Ann Watkins Morgan's youngest child was 10 when Nancy married Thomas Morgan in Oak City in 1872. Leah Smith Ross Radford was no longer having children when her husband John Whitlock Radford married Polly Stevens Adair. Polly had had two other children (Thomas Adair and Susanah Adair) by a previous marriage but they were no longer part of the family by 1870.

### **The Morgan-Radford Clan in 1888**

The year 1888 was a most important year for the Morgan-Radford clan because that autumn many of them began leaving for a new frontier in Wyoming. By 1889 nearly 60 people of the Morgan and Radford extended families had moved to Freedom, Wyoming. Exactly why they decided to leave communities they had lived in for more than 15 years is a mystery. What follows is a summary of members of the Morgan-Radford clan before they began leaving Utah in 1888.

The children of **Thomas and Ann Watkins Morgan** included the following in 1888. Family group sheets of all of the following families are available at <http://www.familysearch.org>.

The oldest Morgan son **Edward (Ted) Morgan** and his wife **Sarah West** had moved their family from Leamington in 1881 to the frontier community of Neeley near what is



now American Falls, Idaho. Edward and Sarah were the second members of the Morgan family to split from the main group and leave their parents behind. Edward and Sarah left a long record of pioneering in Goshen, Deseret, Oak City, and Leamington, staying with the main Morgan clan until new opportunities took them to Neeley in 1881. He and Sarah had nine children, three of whom died in childhood.

Sometime before 1888 Edward and Sarah came back to Leamington, bringing their family. In that year their daughter Sarah Priscilla got acquainted with Frank Ryset (son of Nancy Jane Morgan) and married him in Leamington in August of 1888. Two other of their daughters, Annie and Hannah Elizabeth, also married before leaving Leamington, as discussed below.

The oldest Thomas Morgan daughter, **Elizabeth Morgan**, and her husband **Robert Gourley**, lived their lives in Goshen where they had 11 children, all of whom reached adulthood and married. This is the only Morgan family that never lost a child.

**Eliza Morgan** married **George Morrison** in Deseret in 1868. They lived in Oak City where they had five children, four of whom died of diphtheria in an epidemic in 1882. Their three living children in the Oak City 1880 census were Ann J. 11, Amy 5, and George 3. Author Margaret Roper reports three other children: Izabelle who died at age 6, Nettie, and Eliza who died in infancy. Eliza Sr. herself, according to Roper, was a crippled woman who died in Oak City in 1882, leaving her husband George Morrison entirely without his family. The 1880 census of Oak City did not identify Eliza as being crippled or sick.

George Morrison later married a woman named Eunice Stewart and moved to Leamington, where he built and owned the town's first store on former Morgan land and where he also helped build the landmark stone charcoal kilns, two of which are still there less than two miles east of Leamington. He later staked a claim on a lead mine at Fool Creek near the mountains above Leamington. His second wife was a schoolteacher in Leamington.

**Priscilla Morgan** married **John Franklin Radford** in 1871 in Oak City. They had five children, two of whom died young while living in Leamington. In about 1887 they left to pioneer in a new community in Oregon. John Franklin died in Vale, Oregon, in March 1889. In about 1891 Priscilla migrated to Rudy, Idaho, where she remarried and raised her family in the home of her second husband Isaac Chase. The marriage of Ike Chase and Priscilla produced no children. Priscilla and her family were not involved in the move to Wyoming.

**William Thomas Morgan** married **Sarah Lovina (Holden) Ross**, daughter of Melvin Ross, in Leamington in 1880. In about 1881 they went to Neeley, Idaho, where they settled with older brother Edward, younger brother James John, Lovina's father Melvin Ross, and Edward's son-in-law Willard Moore. Sarah Lovina had 13 children, three of whom died young in Idaho. They remained in Neeley when Edward, James John, and Willard returned to Utah and were living in Neeley when the main Morgan family migrated to Wyoming.

**James John Morgan** married **Amberzine Gustin** in Leamington in 1879. They had 12 children, seven of them born in Leamington. At least four of their 12 children died

young, but they had four with them when traveling to Wyoming, one just a newborn infant.

**Everal Hannah Morgan** married **Daniel H. Radford** in 1878 in Leamington. Three of their seven children were born in Leamington before 1888. They took their then three children on the journey to Wyoming along with the main clan. According to Star Valley membership records, this couple had a child, Geneva Priscilla, on 23 April 1889 in Freedom, Wyoming.

**Nancy Jane Radford Ryset Morgan**, Thomas' plural wife, also had children with her on the trip to Wyoming. These included **Francis Daniel (Frank) Ryset**, her oldest living son by her former husband. Frank had just married **Sarah Priscilla Morgan**, daughter of Edward and Sarah, in Leamington in August 1888, just before the trip to Wyoming. Their first child Nora was born in Freedom, Wyoming, on 6 September 1889.

Nancy Jane's other living children at the time of the trip in 1888, all fathered by Thomas Morgan, included **John Thomas**, age 15; **Martha Velella** 11; **Joseph Charles** 9; and **Lydia Almeda** about 6 months.

**John Whitlock Radford** was about 75 years old in 1889, and his wife **Leah Smith Ross Radford**, was about 67. Though elderly, they decided to take the trip to Wyoming to be with their families.

**James Richard (Dick) Ross**, the older of Leah's two sons by her first husband, his wife Susan Potter and family of seven children, also migrated to Wyoming. They spent most of their married lives living close to his mother, including in Deseret, Oak City, Leamington, and Kanosh, Utah. There is an excellent 1880 photograph of the Radford and Ross family on the "Nancy Jane Radford" page on the <http://macsheep.tripod.com/Morgan/> Web site.

**Melvin Ross**, the younger brother, had seven children by his first wife **Julia Elizabeth Smith** (not related to his mother Leah Smith above), two of whom died young. Julia died from an accident in 1878. Melvin next married **Mary Ellen Hadden**, with whom he had six children. Melvin, his second wife, and children and the children by his first wife lived in Leamington until about 1882, after which they lived for a short time in Neeley, Idaho, where their second child was born in 1883. Their third child was born in Leamington in 1885, and then they moved to Joseph, Sevier County, Utah, until migrating to Eastern Idaho where they joined the larger Morgan/Radford family after 1891. They were not part of the Wyoming experience.

Other members of the Radford family were:

**Leah Ellen Radford Lovell**, sister of Nancy Jane Radford, who married **Joseph Hyrum Lovell** in 1869. They were pioneers in Oak City and had 11 children, 10 of whom were born in Oak City before they migrated to Wyoming in 1889. Nine of their children were living at the time of their move to Wyoming. They moved again with the larger group when the final move to Idaho took place in 1891.

**Diana Rebecca Radford Woolsey**, sister of Nancy Jane Radford, married **Abraham Mitchell Woolsey** in 1878 in Kanosh, Utah. They had eight children, five of whom were born before the 1888 trip to Wyoming. They were residents of Leamington from about 1880 to 1888. According to Star Valley Stake membership records, this couple had a child named Everal on 23 April 1889 in Freedom, Wyoming.

Other grandchildren of Thomas and Ann Morgan were married by 1888 and having children. These include:

**Annie Lydia Morgan**, daughter of Edward and Sarah, married **Willard Cook Moore** in Leamington in 1879. Willard Moore was orphaned as a youth and had lived with the Edward and Sarah Morgan family for about seven years before he married their daughter. He and his family went with her parents to Neeley, Idaho, in 1881 but returned to Leamington in about 1887. He and Annie had two surviving children when they went to Wyoming. On September 10, 1889, they had a child named Ira in Freedom, Wyoming.

**Hannah Elizabeth Morgan**, daughter of Edward and Sarah, married **John Russel Hadden**, a brother of Mary Ellen Hadden, the second wife of Melvin Ross. They had a son, John, with them on their move to Wyoming. According to Star Valley Stake membership records, they had a child born in Freedom, Wyoming, on 22 May 1889. Hannah died from complications of this birth, and the child also later died. But John Hadden and his surviving son remained with the larger group in 1891 when the migration to Eastern Idaho took place.

**A High Child Mortality Rate.** The Morgan/Radford clan lost many children and adults to premature death caused mainly by contagious diseases due to poor sanitation, the rawness of pioneer life, and a lack of health-related knowledge or professional care. Diphtheria was possibly the most common cause of death in young children. Accidents also took a few lives. Probably the biggest loser in the death of children was Eliza Morgan Morrison, who lost all five of her children as well as her own life in 1882; she has no descendants today. Nancy Jane Radford Ryset Morgan had 14 children by two husbands, only five of whom reached adulthood. She herself died at the age of 53 of "nervous prostration," according to a record handed down to her descendants. All of our families lost at least one child except Elizabeth Morgan Gourley, who with husband Robert raised 11 children in Goshen, Utah, all of whom reached adulthood and married.

## Sources Used to Compile the Millard County Period

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- The 1870 Census of Millard County adds some confusion to our Oak City history, because it shows all residents of Oak City counted in the Deseret census enumeration district, taken in June of 1870. All residents on pages 333 and 334 of that census are actually in Oak City.
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- Millard County Index to Land Deeds and Mortgages, FHL Film 1654356.
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- Oak City [Oak Creek] Ward Records Film #0026313 contains births, deaths, and other vital data on some of our ancestors and some of their children while in Deseret and Oak City but is incomplete. Contains details of the building of Fort Deseret and a list of men who worked on the project. Lists and discusses Deseret settlers that moved to Oak Creek in 1868.
- Roper, Margaret W. *Echoes of the Sage and Cedars: A Centennial History of Oak City, Utah, 1868-1969*. 1970. Published by Oak City Ward.
- Shadows of the Past, Homes and Historical Places of Interest in Oak City, UT, 1868-1950*. 2002, Oak City Town Council.
- Web site for Morgan Family Pioneer Heritage: <http://macsheep.tripod.com/Morgan/>

## Chapter 5

### The Move to Wyoming, 1888-1889

From the mid-1880s and later, many Mormons from Utah and Southeastern Idaho began migrating to new frontiers in western Wyoming and eastern Idaho. Star Valley, as it came to be called, is a narrow valley enclosed by mountain ranges and is about 100 miles south of Yellowstone Park, close to the Idaho border. It is a high valley, its floor averaging more than 6000 feet above sea level, with a relatively short growing season but adequate for growing hay and grain. One of its early attractions was the abundance of native grass good for grazing livestock and cutting for hay. Before permanent settlements were founded in the 1880s, people from southeastern Idaho grazed livestock in the valley during the summer months.

The most important river in Star Valley, the Salt River, flows northward into the Snake River before the Snake takes an abrupt turn to the west on its journey through eastern and southern Idaho. Our Morgan and Radford ancestors were the founders of what later became the town of Etna, just a few miles south of where the Salt enters the Snake, and about seven miles north of the community of Freedom. Before Etna was named, early records list our families as members of the Freedom, Wyoming, Branch of the LDS church.

From church records and other sources, mostly unpublished life sketches written by descendants, a list was compiled of the members of the Morgan/Radford extended families that were in Freedom (Etna) Wyoming in 1889 (Figure 13). They included at least 59 people as follows, beginning with the oldest:

John Whitlock Radford, age 74, and wife Leah  
Leah Ellen Radford Lovell, her husband Joseph Lovell, and eight children  
Daniel H. Radford, his wife Everal Morgan, and their three children  
Diana Rebecca Radford Woolsey, her husband Abraham, and five children  
Thomas Morgan and first wife Ann Watkins  
Nancy Jane Radford Morgan (plural wife of Thomas), their four children  
Frank Ryset (son of Nancy Jane) and his wife Sarah Priscilla Morgan  
Edward and Sarah Morgan and three unmarried children  
James John Morgan, wife Amberzine, and five children  
Hannah E. Morgan (Thomas' granddaughter), husband John Hadden, and son  
Annie L. Morgan Moore and her husband Willard Moore, two children  
James Richard Ross, wife Susan, and six children



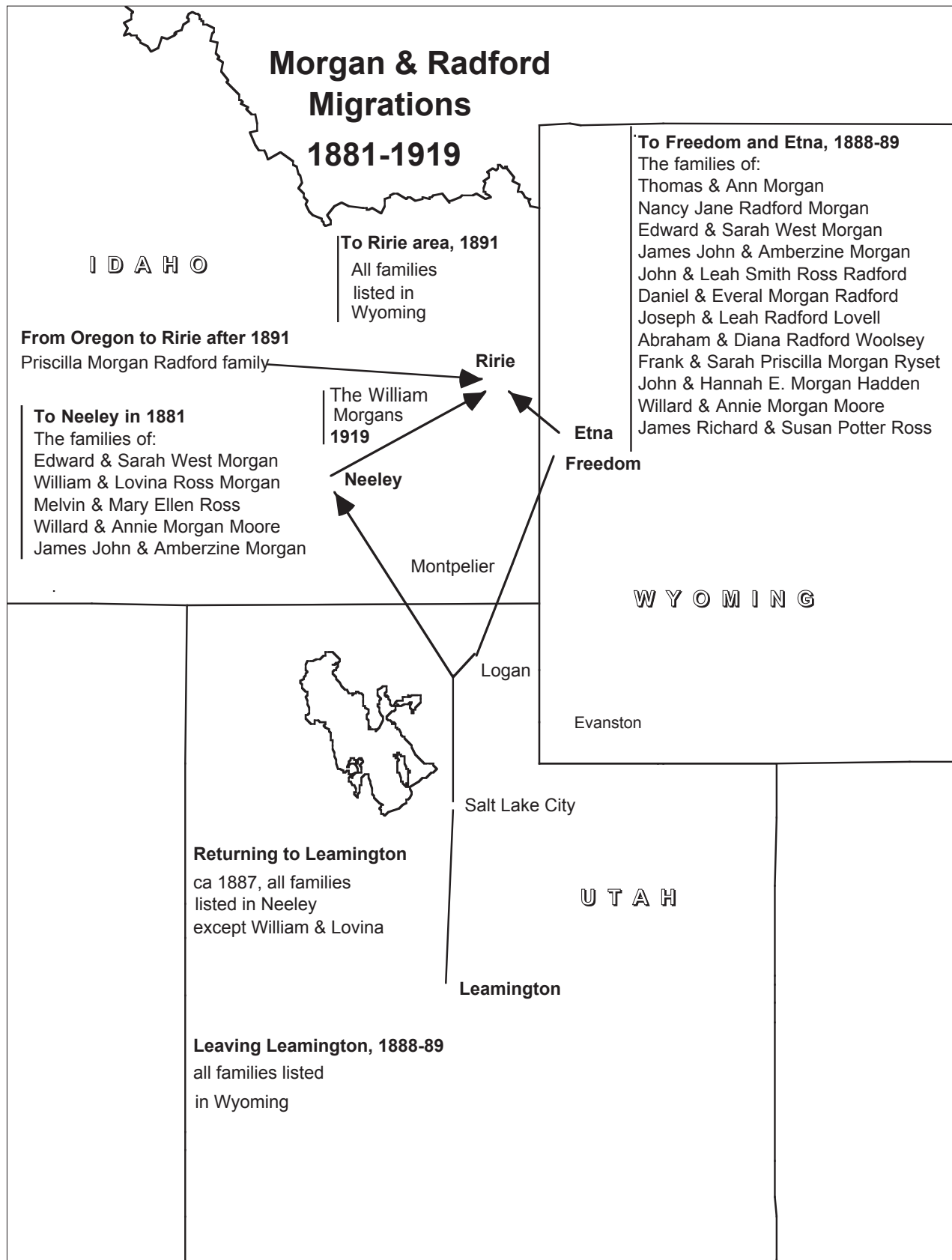


Figure 16. Morgan and Radford migrations, 1881-1891.

Many sources on our families mention the migration to Star Valley, Wyoming. They are inconsistent as to when the migration started, or if all went at the same time in one large train of wagons. Some Radford sources, as reported by Rebecca Freeman and others, say the Radfords and Lovells left in May of 1889 and formed a train of 17 wagons, driving many cattle and horses, and that the trip took them about five weeks from Leamington. A train of 17 wagons, while a large train, may not have been enough for the 59 people that made the move.

Many Morgan sources point to the fall of 1888 as the departure time and do not make references to one large wagon train. Ryset sources say that they left in the fall of 1888, a short time after Frank Ryset married Sarah Priscilla Morgan in August of 1888. Joseph Charles Morgan, son of Nancy Jane and Thomas, was baptized in September of 1888 in Leamington, and this entry is the last for a Morgan in the Leamington LDS Ward records. The youngest child of Nancy Jane Radford Morgan, Lydia Almeda Morgan, was born in Leamington in March of 1888, and she is said to have been six months old when Morgans migrated to Wyoming.

Ellen Ryset Butler, writing about her parents in a sketch titled "Francis Daniel Ryset," says, "Shortly after they were married, Prissy [Sarah Priscilla Morgan] and Frank along with Prissy's folks, Sarah and Ted [Edward] Morgan, two sisters and brothers-in-law, Annie and Willard Moore and Hannah and John Hadden, left [Leamington] for greener pastures [in Wyoming]." She does not mention Radfords or Lovells on this trip.

Nora Ryset Moore says in her "History of Francis Daniel Ryset": "In a very short time after Priscilla and Frank got married on 8 August 1888 they moved to Freedom, Wyoming. There they lived for two and a half years. . . . In the spring of 1890 they went to Soda Springs, Idaho, . . . From there to Pocatello, Idaho, where he worked that winter [1890-91]."

Perhaps the most authoritative source of information is the early Star Valley, Wyoming, LDS Stake membership records. Although these records are not complete, they do show the birthdates of five babies born to our families while in the Freedom Branch in 1889, but none in 1888, as follows:

Diana Rebecca Radford Woolsey had a baby (Everal) in Freedom on 23 April 1889; Hannah Lizzie Morgan Hadden had a baby (Francis) in Freedom on May 22, 1889 (and lost her life from this childbirth); Everal Morgan Radford (wife of Daniel H) had a baby (Priscilla Geneva) in Freedom on July 4, 1889. Sarah Priscilla Morgan Ryset gave birth to Nora on 6 September 1889 in Freedom, and Annie Lydia Morgan Moore gave birth to Ira on 10 September 1889.

It is interesting, however, that Leah Ellen Radford Lovell had baby Ada in Oak City on 7 February 1889. The Lovell family were leaders and key players in this migration to Wyoming. It is the Lovell family histories that claim that they traveled with Leah Ellen's parents, the Radfords; and some Ryset family histories claim that they went with the Lovells and Radfords. Morgan family histories just identify other members of the family that were in Wyoming without making reference to all of them traveling together. If the birthdates for Everal Woolsey and Ada Lovell (whose mothers are Radford sisters) are correct, and if all of our families went to Wyoming at the same time, their trip would

have to have been, at the latest, in March and early April of 1889. But it is more likely that some of our families made the trip independently and a few months before the Radfords and Lovells, who state that they left in the spring of 1889. The Morgans probably left in the fall of 1888.

Just exactly which route to Star Valley our families took is not known. According to authors Corzi and Call, people who first settled in Star Valley got there by going through Montpelier Canyon east from Montpelier, Idaho, until they reached Montpelier Creek in the Bear River Valley. They followed that difficult creek north to its headwaters, making many different crossings of the creek as they stayed close to the mountainside, pulling their loaded wagons up and down the ravines in the canyon. After going over a pass, they could then go down Crow Creek Canyon which entered Star Valley from the west at what is now Fairview, Wyoming. This was a difficult 50 miles from Montpelier.

But another question is how they got to Montpelier, a town in Bear Lake Valley which itself is so isolated by mountain ranges that getting there by wagon train would have been a long arduous trip from central Utah. Ironically, Montpelier by 1888 could be reached by railroad, the Oregon Short Line, passing through from Nebraska to Oregon. A traveler could have boarded a train in Leamington and gone north to Pocatello or Soda Springs, Idaho, on the Utah Northern Line, and then east to Montpelier on the Oregon Short Line. But with all the livestock, wagons, and possessions they needed to found a new settlement in Wyoming, they could not have used the railroad even for a short distance.

From northern Utah, traveling by wagon to Montpelier would not have been easy by any of four different routes available at that time. Taking the Logan Canyon route would have been slow and cumbersome. A farther but probably easier way from Logan would have been to go north through Preston, Idaho, to Soda Springs, Idaho, then east and south, following the Old Oregon Trail to Montpelier. But this was about 75 miles farther than through Logan Canyon.

An even easier and shorter way from central Utah would have been for them to go east from Salt Lake City, through well-traveled Echo Canyon to Evanston, Wyoming, and northward from there, following the lush Bear River Valley north to Montpelier Creek. This route completely bypasses the Bear Lake Valley and Montpelier and does not involve as much difficult terrain. But early writers do not mention this Bear River passage from Wyoming as a possible immigration route for Star Valley settlers in the 1880s. This latter route today is traversed by highways 30 and 89 and is a popular way for many Utahns to go to Star Valley and Yellowstone.

The book *Star Valley and Its Communities* by Lee R. Call, page 99, quotes a letter written by Leah Lovell Ririe, a Radford descendant who was 11 years old in 1888. She states:

We settled west of Etna on the [Salt] river bank in 1888. There were Morgans, Moores, Radfords and others. A church branch was organized and called Liberty Branch. My father, Joseph Lovell, was the presiding elder. A two-room house was built and that was where we had Sunday School . . . We attended school in

a log school house and logs were used for seats. . . . Sometimes we had to stay in the school house a week at a time.

Food and other provisions were brought to the children when they were snowed in.

Rebecca Freeman, a historian of the Radford family and a Radford descendant herself, provides the most detailed account of the Wyoming experience in her typescript, "Footprints in Time." Citing a history of the Lovell family, she writes:

Leah and John Radford left from Leamington 21 May 1889; they traveled with their daughter and family, Leah Ellen and Joseph Hyrum Lovell. The Lovells had left from Oak City 14 May 1889, joining with the Radfords in Leamington. . . . It took five weeks to make the journey; they arrived in Wyoming on 17 June 1889 . . .

When they arrived in the valley they found that living there would probably be harder than any other place they had lived. The sage brush and wild hay was thick and deep; it was hard to even clear a path to get the horses and wagons through. They would need to clear a patch of ground before they could make camp for the night. They wanted to quit and return to Utah but Leah [Radford] was unable to travel any further so they stayed. They first settled near a spring up a canyon. They cleared some land, built corrals, and put up tents. Soon after settling a forest fire broke out. The men were all up the canyon getting logs for a cabin. Leah was confined to her bed and her daughter Leah Ellen [Lovell] and the youngest grandchild George were all that were home at the time with only one horse. They hurried and tore down the tents, hitched the horse to one wagon, helped Leah into it and moved to a safe place. All the work they had put in was destroyed along with many of their possessions. They moved down into the valley to create another home.

Again they had to face Indian problems as they had done so many times in the past, only this time they had a better solution. Granddaughter Leah Ann Lovell writes.

One Sunday afternoon Grandma (Leah) was sick in bed and the Indians rode up. Uncle Dick (James Richard Ross) said for us to stand back so they could see her in bed and he would give them a scare. We turned the tent flaps back so they could see her and told them that she had smallpox. All the rest of the summer they took a cut-off and never came back by our camp at all.

Joseph Lovell built a two-room log shack. He and Leah Ellen and their eight children and Leah and John Radford all slept in the same room, the other room being the combined kitchen, dining, living room. Because of the shortage of buildings in the valley, often school and church would also be held in this room.

The winter of 1889-90 was one of the worst on record. Most of our livestock died. The wheat was frozen so hard that the chickens could not eat it. The worst thing to happen that year occurred on December 14 when John Whitlock Radford passed away of dropsy. . . . He was buried near the cabin just west of where the Etna Store now stands.

The next summer [1890] a drought caused more hardships and many of the families who had settled in the valley chose to move back to civilization. Leah was still ill and it was unwise to move her, so the Lovells, along with some other members of the Radford families, stayed in the valley.

Joseph Lovell went out of the valley to get wheat to sustain his family during the coming winter [1890-91]. He tried to provide enough for his family but it was another hard winter. The winter had hardly started when most of the surviving settlers ran out of food. The Lovells divided what they had with the others. Conditions were so bad that only by emptying the bedticks and feeding that straw to the livestock could they keep one cow and one team of horses alive. The only way to get around was on snowshoes. Leah liked to go visit her family that still lived in the valley. Joseph Lovell would put her on a shoe-boggan made from two snow shoes fastened together and pulled on snowshoes to the other homesteads so she could visit. . . . “

The next summer [1891] was better. There was plenty of wild hay, wild game, and berries, the gardens grew well, but most of the settlers decided to abandon the valley. Leah was still ill and the Lovells stayed until late September when she was well enough to travel.

Other accounts by descendants add human interest and corroborate the experiences of a hard winter in Wyoming. Nora Moore Tyler writes:

My aunt Elizabeth [Hannah Elizabeth Morgan Hadden] died at childbirth, leaving a tiny baby. Mother and Aunt Prissy [Sarah Priscilla Morgan Ryset] nursed the baby. Aunt Lizzie was buried on the banks of a warm spring swale [depression] that never freezes over . . . a kind of warm springfed stream with high banks. Grandma Morgan [Sarah West Morgan] kept the baby. They wanted to take Lizzie to Freedom for burial but her husband [John Hadden] refused and since he had first right, his wishes were granted.

From Thomas Ezra Morgan's "Bits of History of Thomas Morgan," told by his uncle Joseph Charles Morgan:

These families left Leamington and went to Star Valley in the spring of 1888. They included Thomas Morgan, Joseph H. Lovell, John W. Radford, Daniel H. Radford, John Hadden, Dick Ross and others. They plowed land and planted grain when they arrived. Due to the exceptional cold and early rain their crops froze. The boys hauled willows on toboggans to feed the cattle. The wheat froze



till the chickens wouldn't eat it. They only had one heifer left when spring came, all their cattle had starved and froze to death, and the dogs turned around and killed that. They had to go to Montpelier to do their trading. The roads got blocked with snow and their provisions ran out. They left Star Valley after two years. A few other people had a few cattle left when they left Wyoming.

Martha Morgan Eames, a daughter of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford, and 11 years old when they left for Star Valley, says of the winter there:

The snow was over five feet deep that winter [1889-90] on the level. Families used to get in their sleighs and go to the home of Thomas Lee, who was the school teacher. They would dance until about midnight, then have supper. Venison was usually one of the main things served. Mrs. Lee would make beds for all the women in the house but the men stayed up and talked until morning when they would go home. They had staked out willow sticks by the side of the roads so they could follow them in the deep snow.

Perhaps one advantage to settling in Star Valley was the abundance of wild game. Elk and deer came down out of the mountains in large herds when snow got deep. Since this valley had not yet been thoroughly exploited by humans, there were many wild animals for the taking.

From author Lee Call:

By 1889 there were settlers in most parts of the valley and another hard winter was experienced by many. Early in the fall of 1889-90 the snow began to fall, bringing up to four feet of snow on the valley bottom. As the winter progressed it would warm up enough to melt the snow, then it would become cold and snow again. It is said that it snowed and melted again and again until altogether 18 feet of snow fell that winter.

Experienced settlers had made preparations for the winter, but the families who came into the valley the year before when it was mild were not prepared for it. Although the fields were waist high with wild hay in the fall, the new families did not think it necessary to cut and preserve it for winter feeding as the year before not more than a foot of snow fell and the cattle and horses found plenty of feed in the open fields. The early and heavy snows of 1889-90 caught these pioneer folks completely unprepared.

On page 96 of Call's book, he writes that John Hadden and Woolsey [Abraham] and a David [Dick] Ross were also early Etna settlers.

Hadden and Woolsey were early settlers who located on Birch Creek and stayed for about a year and a half. During the first summer they were there, they cut hay, bunched it and stuck a stick in the top of each bunch so that when the snow

fell they would be able to find the hay. This way they didn't have to stack the hay. Hadden and Woolsey were the first men to thresh grain in Star Valley. This was accomplished by piling bundles of cut grain together, and driving a team of horses back and forth over it.

We must return to the question of what may have prompted nearly 60 members of our large families to leave their Utah homes for such a difficult environment in Wyoming.

It is a common theme among Mormon scholars writing about the Mormon migration to Star Valley to claim that the valley was a haven for polygamists seeking to escape from federal authorities in Utah and Idaho, for in the 1880s marshals were still hunting polygamist men and incarcerating them. Anti-Mormon laws passed in the state of Idaho also had essentially disenfranchised Mormon voters. Territorial officials in Wyoming, however, were not cooperating with federal marshals and were in fact inviting Mormon immigrants to settle in Wyoming. By the mid-1880s Wyoming had become known among Mormons as a place that was friendly to Mormons seeking a new place to live.

But of all the Mormons that migrated to Star Valley from 1885 and after, polygamists were a tiny minority of the total. In our own Morgan/Radford clan, of the nearly 60 members of our families to reach their new home in Wyoming by 1889, only one, the elderly Thomas Morgan, was a practicing polygamist. It is doubtful, therefore, that a need to find a polygamist haven was the principal motive for our large group of monogamists and their many children. Rather, it seems that an opportunity to acquire farm lands (and a shortage of such lands in Millard County) was a more important motive. Star Valley, though very isolated and a completely raw frontier, was in the 1880s being promoted by the LDS church and the *Deseret News* as a place for migrants wanting new land and farming opportunities.

Ray Hall's thesis, page 44, states:

The Lower [Northern] Star Valley attracted many hardy souls who were not afraid to be long distanced away from their former homes. Such families as Lovells, Morgans, Moores, Bakers, Wolfeys, and Radfords had traveled the length of the Salt River [which flows through Star Valley from south to north] and settled some seven miles north of Freedom near where the Salt River empties into the Snake River. The Colony created by the above mentioned pioneers was named Etna at the suggestion of Carl Cook, one of the early pioneers.

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## Chapter 6

### Settling in Eastern Idaho, 1891-1900

After at least two extremely difficult winters in Wyoming, all members of our families who had been in Wyoming decided at various times in 1891 to move to some place more promising for farming. Some, like the Lovells, considered going back to Utah but were thwarted in that effort by snowed-in roads early in the fall of 1891. But all at various times in 1891 ended up as neighbors again in roughly the same part of the South Fork of the Upper Snake River Valley in Eastern Idaho. Other family members who had not had the Wyoming experience joined later. Some reasons for their choice in and near what later became a town called Ririe are discussed below.

Certainly a big factor in this decision to move to Eastern Idaho was that the land in Idaho's Upper Snake River Valley had already been surveyed for homesteads by the federal government, and the potential for irrigation water was greater than anywhere else they had lived. A few pioneers that had already settled in the region also had proven that crops would do well there and that winters were not going to be quite as devastating as in Wyoming. Unlike the natural limitations on the development of water and farmland in their Utah homes, the Snake River had a larger volume of water than any river they had seen in Utah, and the relative flatness of the Snake River Plains for miles to the west and beyond promised an abundance of land for their future generations to grow in Eastern Idaho.

Another important attraction to this area was that the LDS church by the 1880s was also strongly promoting the Upper Snake River Valley as a good place for Mormon farmers to settle. Consequently the vast majority of settlers in the Upper Snake River Valley were from Utah or older Mormon settlements in Southeastern Idaho. Within a few years after their settlement most of their neighbors were Mormons, just as they had been in Utah. This made the area more attractive to our families who wanted to carry on with their Mormon traditions of community cooperation and worship with little "interference" from non-Mormons.

But at least one factor in this settlement process was different from early settlements in most of Utah. Settlers in eastern Idaho early on acquired title to government-surveyed homesteads in units of 40, 80, 120, or 160 acres. In order to "prove up" on their essentially free homesteads, they had to live on their farms rather than in a farm village as was so common in Utah. This meant that their families and neighbors were dispersed, often miles apart, on their separate farms. This dispersed rural settlement pattern, however, did not inhibit the development of a sense of community. As an LDS ward was organized in each rural tract, a church building would be built with cooperative labor



just as in Utah, and the church meetinghouse became a focal point of each dispersed community.

Every rural tract also needed a schoolhouse which was nearly always built early in the pioneering process. Idaho had become a state in 1890. Children were required by law to go to school. But settlers required that schools be relatively close to where their children lived, resulting in many small schoolhouses throughout the settled area, each of which became a focal point of a community just as the churches were (Figure 17). In the early years the school building might function temporarily for both purposes. Rural schools were usually fairly close to the church.



**Figure 17. The Upper Shelton School in 1893.** This simple but well constructed log building, built at a time when nearly everything was painstakingly done by hand, attests to the importance our ancestors placed on education.

These rural community tracts would always be named, sometimes after the LDS ward name for that district, and may or may not have ever been on a map because a town in the usual sense may not have developed there. For example, our families settled in the rural communities of Shelton, Poplar, Milo, Perry, and Rudy, all located adjacent to each other, but these communities never became towns by these names and cannot be found on the most common highway maps of Idaho. They were strong communities where our families lived and died. The cemeteries in some of these places, especially Shelton, contain the graves of many of our families strongly connected to each other through generations of intermarriage and community life.

In 1915, about 30 or more years after the above rural tracts were first settled, the town of Ririe developed on a railroad loop built to connect many farming tracts east of Idaho Falls. Ririe, along with Rigby to the west, were then the closest service centers for the rural tracts settled by our families.

For some of our families the initial move from Wyoming involved stronger push factors than pull factors. They knew they wanted to get out of Wyoming because of its cold weather, but many of them initially did not know exactly where their next home was going to be. The trip from Etna to the Snake River Valley near what is now Ririe was not a great distance, but it involved driving wagons at first through an accommodating canyon of the Snake River toward the northwest. But as they continued farther into the canyon, past what is now Swan Valley, Idaho, the river becomes boxed in by a solid lava rock canyon with essentially vertical walls on both sides of the narrowly confined river. Where that segment of the canyon begins is where travelers had to climb steep walls to the foothills above the canyon.

The experience of moving from Etna to the Upper Snake River Valley is very well expressed by Rebecca Freeman, drawing upon the Joseph H. Lovell family journals for her source:

Early snows [in the fall of 1891] had closed the road to the south through Freedom, Wyoming, and Montpelier, Idaho, so they [the Lovells] decided to go north, then west and south through Eagle Rock [Idaho Falls] and Fort Hall. One major obstacle was that there was no road out of Swan Valley in that direction. The sheer canyon walls were not tall but were steep. Everyone including Leah [Radford] had to climb up the steep walls. Joseph [Lovell] and his older sons managed to get the team of horses up to the top, then they hooked ropes to the wagon and lifted it straight up the sheer walls. By the time they reached the next settled area [Snake River Plain] winter snows had arrived and they were stranded for the winter. This area was called Shelton [Idaho]. There were very few settlers and no homes or cabins available. A settler named David Ririe had a cabin that had been used as a barn and a chicken coup. He let the family live in it that winter. The family lived in tents in the snow until Joseph could get it cleaned out and livable for the winter.

By the time spring came they decided to stay and try to settle in that area. They found conditions more hospitable here and there were other settlers around. Leah regained enough health and strength to move into her own small cabin when one was built for her.

### **The Poplar Tract**

As our families made their choices about where to settle in the Snake River Plain, some chose the first flat terrain area they came to as they descended from the hills to the east and south, at that natural boundary line between hills and plains. The 70-year-old Thomas Morgan was among those who chose to settle near the southwest bank of the South Fork of the Snake River where our migrants from Wyoming first descended the hills and onto the fertile plain. This rural tract area had become known as Poplar. Here in Poplar he and Ann and his young family with Nancy Jane settled down, beginning again for the seventh time as pioneers working with others to help establish a new settlement. This time he soon acquired title to this land, a 160-acre homestead, which he and his sons, especially John Thomas and young Joseph Charles, would “prove up on” within a few years. Thomas and Ann’s oldest sons, Edward and James John, and Nancy’s son Frank Ryset, also obtained farms nearby on other rural tracts.

Certainly one of the attractions already in place in Poplar by the time Morgans got there was the beginning of an infrastructure for farming. Although Indians, ranchers, and fur trappers preceded farmers in the Upper Snake River Valley, more intensive farming began in earnest in the 1880s under the legal framework of the Timber Act and the Homestead Act. By 1884, settlers realized that without irrigation water they would not be able to improve on their homesteads or even survive (Figure 18). In 1884, years before the Morgans arrived in Poplar, a canal was brought from the Snake River to Poplar region farms. It was a natural seasonal stream channel part of the way but had to be enlarged. The water served the land for a distance of about three miles. The canal was named the Farmers Friend Canal. By the time Morgans got to Poplar in 1891, the canal had already been extended down to the Shelton tract to the west of Poplar. Another earlier canal, the Anderson Canal, had also been



**Figure 18. Robert Morgan**, son of Edward and Sarah West Morgan, working on what is possibly the Riley Ditch south of the Shelton area many years after it was built. He is using horses and hand-operated buck or slip scrapers.

completed to water much of the fertile lands west and southwest of Poplar before the Morgans got there.

Showing again the spirit of cooperation among our families in this pioneer effort, George Radford, writing for the book "Pioneer Irrigation in the Upper Snake River Valley" (pages 87-88), says: "Frank Ryset, Edward, James John, and Thomas Morgan, and a cousin John Radford, went up the river to Black Canyon and got enough logs to build five one-room houses 16' x 18'. These logs were sent down the river on a raft made by the men."

Besides building cabins, obtaining more water seemed always to be an important need. According to George Radford, who wrote a life sketch of Thomas Morgan in the above book:

Mr. Morgan made and put a waterwheel in the Anderson Canal just below the present site of the Riley Ditch headgate. It was made something like a wagon wheel with large paddles extending out and buckets fastened to them. The pressure of the running water from the river turned the wheel and each time the wheel went around each bucket would fill, swing around in position to empty the water into a large trough which then carried the water to his ditch. With his waterwheel he secured water for his garden, livestock and culinary use.

As the family grew and the need for more land and irrigation became necessary, they continued to cooperate in building needed infrastructure. Until about 1898 the south part of Poplar could not be irrigated for lack of a ditch on this higher ground adjacent to the hills. In 1899 they pooled their labor again in building the most important irrigation ditch for their homesteads in Poplar.

The first ditch built along this south bluff is known as the Riley Ditch, named after John Riley, the first husband of Martha Morgan, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Jane Morgan (Figure 19). After a survey had been made of his land, John Riley determined that if a ditch could be run along the bluff extending southwest from the river, it would be possible to deliver water to this barren spot. Work began in the summer of 1899 when John Riley, Thomas Morgan, Edward Morgan, Daniel Radford, Jr., and others started construction on the ditch. Considering that Thomas at this time was about 78 years old, he probably didn't





**Figure 19. John Henry Riley**, first husband of Martha Veletta Morgan and one of the builders of the Riley Ditch (canal).

do much of the physical work. As a surveyor, however, he may have helped determine the course the new ditch would take.

Sources say the building of the Riley Ditch was more difficult than expected because of the need to remove boulders and trees and make a firm leakproof bed for the ditch in some soft gravel areas. Joseph Morgan, in 1902, youngest son of Thomas and Nancy Jane, was among those who filed for water rights to farm on his homestead in Poplar using water from the new Riley Ditch.

Poplar was the first Idaho home of the Thomas and Nancy Jane Morgan family. Four years after settling there, Ann Watkins Morgan died in Poplar on 19 August 1895 at the age of 73. Her death left Thomas with his wife Nancy Jane and her family. But in May 1900 Nancy Jane at age 53 died in Poplar of “nervous prostration.” By that time four of her five surviving children had reached adulthood. Her youngest, Lydia Almeda, was 12 years old when her mother died. It is probable that Lydia Almeda moved to her sister

Martha’s house after Nancy Jane’s death. In October 1906 the 85-year-old Thomas married 66-year-old widow Susan Byington Wilbur. Her Byington family were early pioneers of Poplar, as well as her first husband’s family, the Wilburs.

**Thomas Morgan’s Ferry Across the Snake River.** The Snake River during most of the year was much too wide and unforgiving to simply ford across in a wagon. Ferry boats were employed, especially where the channel was narrower. North of the Poplar area the Snake River divides for a distance of about five miles, forming an island between its two channels. Upstream from this division (east) near the intake (headgate) for the Anderson Canal, the river was narrow at a place now called Byington Fishing Access. This was a good place for the Upper Ferry, which the elderly Thomas Morgan operated for a few years (Figure 20).

In the book *Ririe Our Hometown*:

In about 1898, Elof Nelson . . . built a ferry about three miles upstream from the town of Heise. The ferry consisted of two boats with timbers over the top joining both boats. Planks were laid over the timbers to create a solid floor. A railing was placed around the outside of the whole ferry. The ferry was placed so that the river current itself provided the momentum to move it across the river. In 1906, Elof Nelson sold this “Upper Ferry” to Thomas Morgan. . . . He ran it himself for several years.



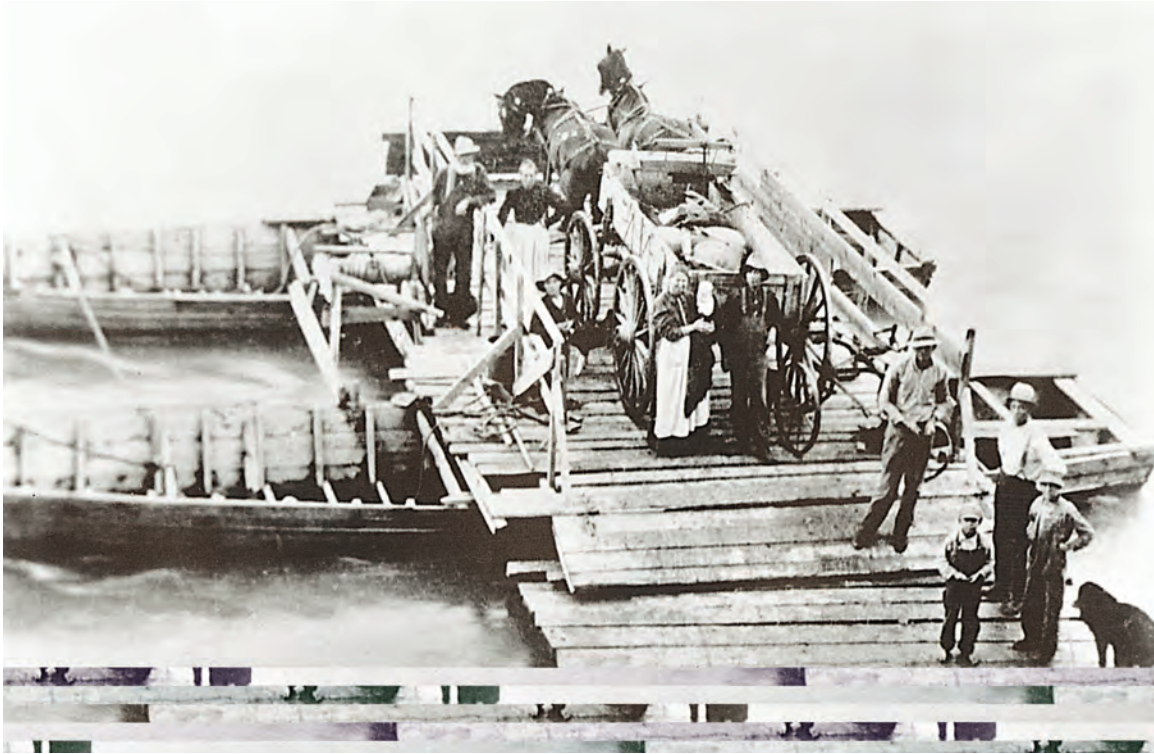


**Figure 20. Thomas Morgan's Ferry on the Snake River.** Thomas Morgan sitting on the ferry he purchased from Elof Nelson in 1906. This ferry across the Snake River above Heise Hot Springs was used to haul logs and firewood from the area between Kelly and Black canyons, to haul lumber from the sawmill in Kelly Canyon, for access to Heise Hot Springs, and as a stagecoach route to Rexburg, Idaho.

Morgan's ferry carried teams of horses and wagons and hauled logs and timber from a sawmill in Kelly Canyon. Many people also ferried for pleasure, as a swimming resort was now at Heise Hot Springs, about three miles downstream (west) on the north side of the river (Figure 21).

### **The Shelton and Milo Tracts**

Bordering the Poplar Tract on its west is Shelton, and Milo is to the west of Shelton. In 1891 the families of Frank and Priscilla Morgan Ryset, Joseph and Leah Radford Lovell, Edward and Sarah West Morgan, and Willard and Annie Morgan Moore moved to Shelton. Within a short time they all had legal title to homestead lands in Shelton. In the true pioneering spirit some of them donated plots of land for community purposes. Willard Moore donated a large lot for a cemetery, now the Ririe-Shelton Cemetery, where most of our Shelton and Poplar ancestors are buried. Frank Ryset donated a lot for a school. Frank Ryset and his neighbors floated logs down the Snake River and built the first schoolhouse "in time for a Christmas party in 1892." Other family members



**Figure 21.** Another view of the **Thomas Morgan ferry**, showing the boats that it floated on. Thomas is standing on the left side, leaning against the rail.

arriving in Shelton in the 1890s included Franklin Brown (husband of Edward Morgan's daughter Mary Emma), who with his brother A. W. Brown built the first store in Shelton.

The Anderson Canal was the first canal built in the region that included Shelton. First surveyed in 1879, by the early 1880s it was already providing water to the Shelton area and beyond when our families arrived. It eventually became part of a larger system of canals that are still in use well over 100 years later.

In the Shelton community, according to the book *Ririe Our Town*, "From the early 1880s Mormon settlers in this part of the Snake River Plain began meeting together in their homes until about 1885 when an LDS ward was organized called Willow Creek Ward, named after a small tributary of the Snake that ran to the west and south of their lands. In 1892 the Willow Creek Ward was divided, forming the Shelton Ward to its east," encompassing our Shelton and Poplar families' homestead areas. With the same dedication and cooperation as in previous settlements, our families and their neighbors built the first Shelton LDS churchhouse in 1893, this time made of milled lumber.

In this region of Idaho by the 1880s and 1890s, log and lumber were by far the chief building materials for houses and buildings instead of the adobe common in central Utah. Two-room log cabins with dirt floors and dirt roofs, as described in the Oak City section of this history, were the most common houses during the frontier period. Willard Moore is one who mentioned a dugout as being his family's first home.



In the 1900 U.S. census, the government did not recognize the local names of these tracts where our families lived. Our families living in Shelton and Poplar in 1900 were enumerated in the Willow Creek Precinct in then Bingham County. This was a broad east-west district extending from Poplar west as far as Milo and Ucon. In the Willow Creek census in 1900 were the Frank Ryset family, Willard Moore family, Martha Morgan Riley and two daughters, and Thomas Morgan (Figure 22) with son Joseph and daughter Almeda (12 years old), and next door was John Thomas Morgan with wife



**Figure 22. Thomas Morgan.** This picture was taken the day in 1913 when he won the Rigby Stake Old Timers Day contest. He passed away just two years later.

Josephine and daughter. This Willow Creek census was dated 18 June 1900, only about a month after Nancy Jane Morgan died.

Martha Morgan Riley, daughter of Thomas and Nancy Jane, settled in Milo, the tract just west of Shelton, after her first husband John Riley died. She married the widower Samuel Thomas Eames and raised their combined family in the Milo tract. Martha's younger sister Lydia Almeda Morgan married George Nowlin and moved to Claresholm, Alberta, Canada, where they raised a large family.

### **Rudy and Perry Tracts**

Just to the north of Poplar and Shelton, other rural tracts developed which became the homes of some of our families. Rudy originally was a large tract just to the north of Shelton, but at that time was in Fremont County (now Jefferson), and included the lands extending from east of present Ririe for about seven miles west toward Rigby. Unlike the other tracts mentioned, Rudy early on got a post office and was recognized by the federal government as a census precinct in 1900 and 1910. In these two censuses our families that lived in Rudy include Isaac Chase, second husband of Priscilla Morgan Radford, whose first husband John F. Radford had died while living in Vale, Oregon, in March of 1889. Priscilla moved her young Radford family to the area and sometime later married Isaac Chase. Their children grew up in the Chase home in Rudy. Daniel H. and Everal Hannah Morgan Radford also settled in Rudy. Dick Ross and later Melvin Ross, Nancy Jane Radford's half brothers, also settled on homesteads in Rudy.

In 1908 the LDS church divided the large Rudy Ward, forming the Perry Ward on its east and Clark Ward on its west. Perry was essentially the tract which later included the townsite of Ririe. Most of our families identified as residents of Rudy in 1900 actually lived in what later became Perry when the two wards were divided. A few years before Thomas Morgan died, he moved to Perry Ward to live in the home of his daughter Priscilla Morgan Chase. He died at her home on 6 July 1915 at the age of about 94. The town of Ririe was not founded until 1915 when a railroad was extended through the Perry area. It now occupies the southern part of the old Perry District.

### **Dry Farm Regions in the Hills**

Just to the south and east of the Upper Snake River Plain a hilly topography dominates the landscape. These hills could not be watered by the flood irrigation techniques used when settlers came to the valley. But since the rainfall amount is adequate to grow low-yield crops of grain without irrigation, the hills became known as "dry farm country" (farming without irrigation). Some of our families, especially second or third generation members, claimed land in the hills for dry farming purposes. Grain crops grew, but there was a limit on how many acres could be profitably cleared and plowed for the value in grains reaped. Dry farming here required an alternate fallow year between crop years. So if a family had 160 acres in dry farm lands, only half that amount could be planted any one year, while the other half lay fallow to collect moisture from rains that nourished the next year's crop. The planted lands would be alternated with fallow lands each planting season.



The Frank Ryset family maintained homes in the dry farm lands as well as down in the valley, requiring some of them to move seasonally. Sons of Thomas and Nancy Jane, Joseph and John Thomas, worked together on their lands in the dry farm area. John Edward “Ted” Radford and some of the Lovells actually went to live in the hills, building homes along one of the many creeks that drained the hills.

### **The Ririe-Shelton Cemetery**

One excellent way descendants of this large Morgan-Radford clan can make a tangible contact with their past is to visit the Ririe-Shelton Cemetery located one mile southwest of Ririe in a clump of trees on the north side of present highway 26. Buried on plots adjacent to each other are many of our earliest Utah ancestors. The southeastern area of the cemetery is the oldest and contains tombstones of John Whitlock and Leah Radford (his remains were brought from Etna, Wyoming, and buried next to his wife).



**Figure 23.** Standing: **Wealtha Permilla (Pearl) Wilbur Radford** (1880-1919), who married Edward Radford in 1898. Sitting is her mother, **Susan Augusta Byington Wilbur**. Susan had a large family with her first husband Rufus Wilbur and then married Thomas Morgan late in her life after Rufus Wilbur died.

Leah Smith Ross Radford was one of the first of our ancestors to be buried in this cemetery. She died at the age of 72 in her small log cabin in Shelton on 24 December 1894. Others there include Thomas Morgan and his wives Ann and Nancy Jane, Joseph and Leah Lovell, Abraham and Dianna Radford Woolsey, Edward and Sarah West Morgan, Willard and Annie Morgan Moore, Frank and Mary Emma Morgan Brown, Daniel H. and Everal Morgan Radford. Elsewhere in this same cemetery are James John Morgan and his ex-wife Amberzine Morgan, Frank and Priscilla Morgan Ryset, Melvin and Mary Hadden Ross, and many descendants of our early pioneers.

When Thomas Morgan died in 1915, according to his obituary written by Joseph Charles Morgan, at that time he was survived by 10 children, 60 grandchildren, about 100 great-grandchildren, and 26 great-great-grandchildren. At the beginning of the 21st century, his descendants with his two wives Ann and Nancy Jane would number several thousand. And the early generations of Morgans had so intermingled with the Radfords that most of these Morgan descendants are also descendants of the Radfords and or Rosses, Rysets, and others.

We can look back with pride at our Morgan-Radford ancestors. Their accomplishments were not in the form of books, learning, or art, but in the founding of towns, communities, and families which thrive today. This is a legacy with which we can take pride. It is hoped that by learning more about their history, the places where they lived, and the social and religious circumstances of their lives, we can appreciate the hardships, struggles, and sacrifices which they made for us, and bond with them. We are fortunate today that many pictures and a few artifacts of them have survived. They come alive for us in their stories and pictures.

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## Part 2

### DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS MORGAN AND ANN WATKINS

**Thomas Morgan** was born in 1821 in the rural parish of Much Cowarne, Herefordshire, England, and died 6 July 1915 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho. He was the son of Thomas Morgan and Hannah Davies. He married first 17 April 1843 at the Avenbury Parish Church of St. Mary, Herefordshire, England, to **Ann Watkins**, who was born in 1822 in the rural parish of Avenbury, Herefordshire, England, and died 19 August 1895 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho. She was the daughter of James Watkins and Elizabeth Holland.

Some descendants of Thomas Morgan list his name as Thomas William Morgan. Recent research in primary documents show that he did not have a middle name. He had a brother named William and a son named William. For more information see "Thomas Morgan in England, an Examination of Thomas Morgan's Origins in Herefordshire," by James K. Morgan and others, 2004, page 22.

Many descendants of Ann Watkins list her name as Ann Ollen Watkins. Recent research in primary documents show that she did not have a middle name. The name "Ollen" is believed to be a misspelling of her mother's surname, Holland. For more information see "Thomas Morgan in England, An Examination of Thomas Morgan's Origins in Herefordshire," by James K. Morgan and others, 2004.

**Thomas Morgan** married second 25 September 1871 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Nancy Jane Radford**, who was born 14 June 1847 in Agency City, Wapello, Iowa, and died 10 May 1900 in Poplar, Jefferson, Idaho. She was the daughter of John Whitlock Radford and Leah Smith. Nancy Jane was Thomas's plural wife.

Thomas married third in October 1906 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Susan Augusta Byington (Wilbur)** (Figure 23, page 61), who was born 25 September 1840 in Exeter, Scott, Illinois, and died 27 September 1919 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She was the daughter of Hyrum Norton Byington and Sarah Hawkins and the widow of Stephen King Wilbur. Thomas had no children with her, but she had 13 children by her first husband.

The 1880 census of Leamington, Utah, indicates that Thomas may have married a woman named **Elizabeth Rock Dutson** about 20 years older than he. (*For more information on Elizabeth, see Part 1 of this book, page 36.*)

After their marriage, Thomas and Ann first settled in the parish of Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, where they worked as farm laborers and began their family. They had five children while living in England and three more after moving to Utah in 1855. Seven of their children reached adulthood and had families of their own in Utah and Idaho. For information on their ancestors and lives, see Part 1 of this book.

The children of **Thomas Morgan** and **Ann Watkins** were:

1. Edward Morgan, 1843
2. Elizabeth Morgan, 1845
3. Eliza Morgan, 1849
4. Mary Ann Morgan, 1851 (died young)
5. Priscilla Morgan, 1854
6. William Thomas Morgan, 1856
7. James John Morgan, 1860
8. Everal Hannah Morgan, 1862





**Figure 24. Children of Thomas and Ann Watkins Morgan.** Back, left to right, Everal Hannah Morgan Radford (1862-1941), William Thomas Morgan (1856-1946), Priscilla Morgan Radford Chase (1854-1926), Edward (Ted) Morgan (1843-1928), Elizabeth Morgan Gourley (1845-1929); front, Thomas Morgan (1821-1915), Ann Watkins Morgan (1822-1895). Daughter Eliza Morgan Morrison (1849-1892) was deceased at the time of this picture. Son James John Morgan (1860-1918) was living but not in this picture, which was taken in the early 1890s.

## Chapter 7

### Edward Morgan and Sarah West

**Edward Morgan**, the first child of Thomas Morgan and Ann Watkins, was born 16 May 1843 in Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, England, and died 19 December 1928 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 17 May 1863 in Goshen, Utah, to **Sarah Jane West**, who was born 8 November 1842 in Borrowash, Derbyshire, England, daughter of William West and Hannah Twigg. Sarah died 1 January 1928 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho (Figures 25, 26).

In his early childhood Edward lived mainly in the rural community of Bishops Frome, England, where his father was a farm laborer. His ancestors for several generations had lived and died in various nearby communities in the northeastern part of the county of Herefordshire, western England.



**Figure 25.** Edward Morgan (1843-1928), and his wife Sarah West Morgan (1843-1928). Picture taken on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1913.





**Figure 26.** This Thomas Morgan five-generation picture in a beautiful gold frame was passed down through the Moore family. In the back row are Ann (Annie) Lydia Morgan Moore (1864-1943) and her son Willard C. (Whit) Moore (1883-1947). In front are Thomas Morgan (1821-1915), Lamont (Monte) Moore (1905-1979), and Edward (Ted) Morgan (1843-1928). The relationships are Thomas Morgan, his oldest son Edward, Edward's oldest daughter Annie, Annie's oldest son Whit, and Whit's oldest son Monte. May have been taken in 1913.

Early LDS membership records of Goshen, Utah, record that in September of 1851 Edward's father Thomas, while living in England, was baptized a member of the Mormon faith, and that in January of 1852 Edward and his mother were baptized. Edward's paternal uncle Joseph Morgan also joined the church probably about this same time.

The next information known about Edward is that when he was nine years old he boarded the ship *Elvira Owen* with his uncle Joseph Morgan in the port of Liverpool, England, in February 1853. Documents show that Edward and Joseph Morgan traveled all the way to Salt Lake City together and were funded by the LDS Church-owned Perpetual Emigration Fund (PEF) Company. So it is in the records of the PEF (*FHL Film #025 690*) we read that on February 15 the *Elvira Owen* departed from Liverpool with 345 Mormons under the leadership of Elder Joseph W. Young. Knowing the name of their church leader is important because they followed Elder Young all the way to Utah. Elder Young's personal diary while on this voyage can be downloaded from the Internet at [www.lds.org/church history](http://www.lds.org/church/history), Mormon Immigration, Personal Accounts (of Joseph W. Young, 1853).

Joseph Morgan and Edward were listed in the passenger record with the Weaver family whose address in England just before boarding the ship was written as Rowen [Rowden], Worcester. This town is actually in Herefordshire and is about five miles east of Bishops Frome, where Edward was born. The LDS records show Worcester as their home county rather than Hereford because eastern Hereford was in the Worcester Mormon "Conference" (district), and all LDS passengers were organized on the church-chartered ship according to what LDS district (conference) they came from. It is important to know that Joseph and Edward traveled with John, Jane, and Hannah Weaver because Hannah later became Joseph Morgan's wife. Some descendants of Edward say that a lady helped take care of the nine-year-old Edward while they were traveling to and living in Utah. The descendants do not know who that lady was but it is possible, even likely, that Hannah and/or Jane Weaver helped Joseph take care of Edward until the boy's parents arrived in Utah in 1855.

The *Elvira Owen* arrived in New Orleans on 31 March 1853. The next day, on April 1, records show that Joseph Morgan (age 30) and Edward Morgan (age 9), along with the Weavers checked through customs together in New Orleans (*FHL Film #200 173*).

After a short time in New Orleans the PEF passengers under Joseph W. Young's leadership boarded a steamboat and traveled up the Mississippi River to St. Louis and on to Keokuk, Iowa, where they disembarked on April 13, 1853. While in Keokuk they spent about six weeks acquiring resources and provisions for a trek across the plains to Utah. Joseph and Edward traveled with the Joseph W. Young wagon train which departed Keokuk the first week of June and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on 10 October 1853.

A day-to-day account of this wagon trip was written by Henry Pugh, secretary of the Joseph W. Young Company, and is available on *FHL Film #1259740, Journal History of the Church*, October 10, 1853, pages 5-28. While on that journey, on 22 Sept 1853, Joseph W. Young was required to take a census of all 400 travelers on the wagon train and



forward it to Brigham Young. Joseph Morgan (age 30) and Edward (misspelled "Edwin") Morgan (age 10) were on that list, providing proof that the two Morgans remained with their leader Joseph W. Young from the time they got on the ship at Liverpool until they reached Salt Lake City.

But a larger question is, why did Edward's parents allow their nine-year-old boy to leave his family and travel to the ends of the earth with his father's younger brother? This is a perplexing question for us today, but the practice of sending some members of a family, even young ones, with friends or relatives was not unusual in mid 19th-century Mormon emigration. Sometimes this practice had to do with the costs of such an expensive trip, even though most of the pioneer travelers were subsidized by the PEF Company. His parents would all eventually get to Utah, but sending their oldest boy early helped them spread the cost out over two years.

Some of Edward's descendants recite stories handed down in their family, claiming that his uncle Joseph did not take good care of the boy and that Edward found help and nurturing from others (especially "one kindly lady") until his own parents arrived in Utah. Suffice it to say that Edward made the journey safely and was reunited with his parents and sisters two years later in Kaysville, Utah, when Thomas, Ann, and family arrived in October 1855.

Edward and his family remained in Kaysville until about 1857, living near the home of Thomas's brother Joseph and his new wife Hannah Weaver. Sometime in 1857, possibly following the Echo Canyon War in the fall of that year, Edward's family made a move to the town site later called Goshen, Utah, about 30 miles south of Provo. Thomas Morgan and his family were founding pioneers of Goshen, where they lived for a time in a crude dugout in or near a fort which Thomas helped build at Goshen's new town site.

While living in Goshen, Edward reached adulthood and married **Sarah Jane West** on 17 May 1862 in Goshen. She was the daughter of William West and Hannah Twigg. Like Edward, Sarah was also a native of England, having been born in Borrowash, Derbyshire. She came to Utah in 1855 at age 11 with her family. She and her family are listed next to the Morgans in the 1859 LDS Church membership records in Goshen, Utah.

Edward and Sarah lived in Goshen until about 1866. Their first two children, Annie and Hannah, were born in the nearby Utah County towns of Spanish Fork and Pleasant Grove, respectively, where Sarah went to give birth in order to be near her stepmother. After the birth of their second child, Edward and Sarah followed his father Thomas and family to the newly established community of Deseret on the Sevier River in Millard County, Utah. In Deseret they worked hard building irrigation works, dugouts, and another large fort, the remains of which still exist. Records list Edward Morgan among the 98 men who helped build Fort Deseret as a defense against Indian threats. But one disaster after another struck the pioneers in Deseret, as has been explained in the Thomas Morgan history.

In about 1868 or 1869 Edward and Sarah helped found the new community of Oak Creek (later called Oak City) about 20 miles northeast of Deseret in Millard County. Since Oak City was officially established by Mormon Church leaders, each pioneer

family was allowed to claim a lot in the town as their own as payment for their pioneering work. In the early 1870s Edward and Sarah were homeowners in Oak City near many other members of the Morgan and related families.

But some time after his father Thomas and others had founded yet another community about 12 miles north of Oak City, Edward and Sarah and their small children moved to land adjacent to that of his father in the new community called Leamington, also in Millard County. They lived in Leamington during most of the 1870s, farming their lands on the south side of the Sevier River, and utilizing water from the Morgan Ditch which was first surveyed by his father Thomas.

In the fall of 1881, as stated in the book *History of the Neeley Ward* by Norma Weber, Edward and Sarah, along with Edward's brothers William and James John Morgan and others, moved to Idaho and settled on Warm Creek, five miles from what is now American Falls, Idaho. The new settlement became known as Neeleyville, and later Neeley. Edward apparently homesteaded and farmed for a few years in Neeley. From the record kept by their granddaughter, Nora Ryset Moore Tyler, and other sources, it appears that the Edward Morgan family, in about 1887, moved back to Leamington, Utah. They remained there until 1888 or 1889 when Edward and Sarah were joined by some of their adult children and a large number of Morgan and related families and moved to found a new community called Freedom in Star Valley, Wyoming. The section of Freedom where they lived was later separated from the town of Freedom and is now called Etna. The LDS Star Valley Stake membership records show that their oldest daughter Hannah Elizabeth Morgan Hadden, married to John Hadden, died in childbirth in Freedom on 22 May 1889.

In 1891, after about two difficult years in Wyoming, Edward and Sarah, their children and many relatives, moved to the newly founded community of Shelton on the upper Snake River of Eastern Idaho. Their homestead was near what is now the Ririe-Shelton Cemetery where they and many of their family members are buried.

From a brief history of Edward written by his granddaughter Nora Ryset Moore, we learn that in 1928 Edward helped build many of the first irrigation ditches that brought water from the upper Snake River to farms of Eastern Idaho. He accompanied his father Thomas Morgan and other family members up the Snake River to Black Canyon, where they cut logs, made them into rafts, and floated them down the river to Shelton to build their first houses. He helped transport the logs and build the first schoolhouse and first LDS chapel in Shelton.

Sarah Jane West Morgan was born in Borrowash, Derbyshire, England, on 8 November 1842. Her mother Hannah Twigg Morgan died in England 20 January 1844. She, her father William, and other relatives in a company of 403 Latter-day Saints sailed in the ship *Charles Buck*, leaving Liverpool 17 January 1855, arriving in New Orleans around 14 March and in St. Louis on 27 March 1855. She and her father and family then crossed the plains with an ox train led by Captain Richard Ballantyne, which arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on 25 September 1855. She and her family were among the first pioneers in Goshen, Utah, in 1857. By that time her father had married Ann Cook, who became Sarah's stepmother.

Granddaughter Nora Ryset Moore writes that Sarah West Morgan (Figure 27) was a faithful companion through the hardships of pioneering in Utah and Idaho. She served as the Shelton LDS Ward Relief Society President from 1900 to 1908 and served in other capacities for many years, walking the one and half miles to her meetings. She helped gather wheat every fall to put in the Relief Society's granary just north of the chapel. She spent much time caring for the sick, and when there was a death, she would often prepare the body for burial. Sarah West Morgan died at her home in Shelton on 1 January 1928 at the age of 86. Edward died in December 1828. They are buried in the Shelton Cemetery with their daughter, Annie Lydia Morgan Moore's family, and next to Edward's parents.



**Figure 27.** Four generations of the **Edward and Sarah West Morgan family**. Taken between 1920 and 1924. Left to right: Sarah Priscilla Morgan Ryset (1872-1954), Sarah West Morgan (1842-1928), Nora Ryset Moore (1889-1964), and Laverne Moore. The relationships are: Sarah West's daughter Priscilla, Priscilla's daughter Nora, and Nora's daughter Laverne.



**Edward and Sarah West Morgan** had nine children, six of whom reached adulthood (Figure 28), as follows (*from Edward Morgan family records, Ancestral File and Eastern Idaho Obituaries*):

1. Annie Lydia Morgan, 1864
2. Hannah Elizabeth Morgan, 1866
3. Edward Thomas Morgan, 1869
4. Sarah Priscilla Morgan, 1872
5. William Henry Morgan, 1875 (died young)
6. Joseph John Morgan, 1878 (died young)
7. Mary Emma Morgan, 1879
8. Robert Morgan, 1883
9. Elenore Morgan, 1885 (died young)



**Figure 28. Edward and Sarah Morgan family.** Back row, standing, left to right: Sarah Priscilla Morgan Ryset (1872-1954), Mary Emma Morgan Brown (1879-1964, Ann Lydia (Annie) Morgan Moore (1864-1943), fourth and fifth women unidentified, Martha Veletta Morgan Riley Eames (1877-1960). Middle row sitting: Edward (Ted) Morgan (1843-1928), Sarah West Morgan (1842-1928), third woman unidentified, Julia Elizabeth Ross Radford (1883-1967). Front row: woman in shadow unidentified, Sadie Geneva Radford Durrant (1898-1968).



1. **Annie Lydia Morgan**, (Figure 29) the first child of Edward and Sarah Morgan, was born 1 October 1864 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah, and died 6 January 1943 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married **Willard Cook Moore** on 12 November 1879 in Leamington, Millard, Utah. Willard was born 16 November 1859 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, the son of Joseph Moore and Emma Cook. Willard died 6 April 1946 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.

*The following was extracted from a history of Willard and Annie Moore written by their daughter Nora Moore Tyler.*

By the time Willard was five years old, both of his parents had died. As a child he lived in the homes of various families, including that of his uncle in Spanish Fork, Utah, where, according to his own memories, he was not always well treated. When Willard was about 13 he left his uncle's home to live in the home of Edward and Sarah Morgan in Leamington. During his teenage years he lived for seven years as a member of Edward and Sarah's household. When he was 20 and their daughter Annie was 15, they were allowed to get married.



**Figure 29.** Willard Cook Moore (1859-1946) and Ann Lydia (Annie) Morgan Moore (1864-1943). Willard and Annie were close to Thomas Morgan. Willard Moore filled out Thomas Morgan's death certificate and the best large framed pictures we have of Thomas were handed down through the Moore family.

Annie and Willard lived in Leamington, Utah, until the fall of 1881 when they moved to Idaho with her parents and some other members of the Morgan family. They were among the pioneer settlers of Neeley near present American Falls. While pioneering the new settlement, Willard caught diphtheria and exposed others in the family to the dreaded disease. They lost their first child, who died there of diphtheria at the age of 16 months.

Annie and Willard remained in Neeley, Idaho, until about 1886 when they returned to Leamington, Utah. Their fourth child, Ezra, was born in February of 1887 in Leamington. But by the fall of 1888 or 1889 they and their three surviving children joined the large Morgan-Radford migration to Wyoming. After about two years in the Freedom/Etna, Wyoming, area, they moved to Shelton, Idaho, in 1891 where they acquired a homestead farm in

Shelton. Willard eventually built a large one-room log house. It was on this homestead that the Shelton Cemetery was later placed sometime during the 1890s.

In 1942, when Annie's health began to fail, she and Willard moved in with their daughter Nora Moore Tyler. Annie died there ten months later in January 1943 in Idaho Falls. Willard died 6 April 1946 in Idaho Falls. Annie and Willard are both buried in the Shelton-Ririe Cemetery near Ririe, Idaho.

**Annie Morgan and Willard Moore** had the following children (*as recorded by the Ancestral File, Pedigree Resource File, and the IGI*):

- a. *Joseph Edward Moore*, born 20 September 1880 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 28 December 1881 in Neeley, Power, Idaho.
- b. *Willard Cook Moore*, born 22 January 1883 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 3 September 1947 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married first 1 June 1905 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, to Julia Etta Smith, born 9 July 1883 in Cedar City, Iron, Utah, daughter of Benjamin Smith and Margaret Alice Klingensmith. She died 6 March 1942 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. Willard married second 12 May 1947 to Sarah Ellen Wake and had no family with her.
- c. *Annie Elizabeth Moore*, born 13 November 1885 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 11 November 1887, probably in Leamington, Millard, Utah.
- d. *Ezra Moore*, born 14 February 1887 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 26 December 1965 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married Violet Smith 1 December 1905 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho. Violet Smith was born 22 November 1886 in Cedar City, Iron, Utah, daughter of Benjamin Smith and Margaret Alice Klingensmith. She died 29 October 1961 in Grant, Jefferson, Idaho. They had a family in Shelton, Idaho.
- e. *Ira Moore*, born 10 September 1889 in Freedom, Lincoln, Wyoming, and died 30 October 1962 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 4 December 1912 in Logan, Cache, Utah, to Mary Ellen Ferguson who was born 17 August 1892 in Logan, Cache, Utah, the daughter of James A. Ferguson and Mary Agnes Gneiting. They had eight children. She died 27 August 1969 in Idaho Falls.
- f. *John Moore*, born 20 April 1891 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 30 May 1891 in Shelton.
- g. *Sarah Emma Moore*, born 22 May 1894 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 12 June 1930. She married 10 May 1913 Benjamin Franklin Smith, born 7 November 1892 in Cedar City, Iron, Utah, son of Benjamin Smith and Margaret Alice Klingensmith. He died 10 February 1953 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- h. *Cora Moore* (twin), born 5 September 1898 in Shelton and died 15 March 1899 in Shelton.
- i. *Nora Moore* (twin), born 5 September 1898 in Shelton and died 26 August 1984. She married 14 December 1916 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to William Carlos Ross. He was born 26 February 1889 in Joseph, Sevier, Utah, the son of Don

Carlos Ross and Alvira Ann Mackay. He died 25 January 1919. She married second Charles Tyler, born 24 December 1893 in Huntington, Emery, Utah, the son of Daniel Moroni Tyler and Sarah Elzina Pulsipher. He died 14 November 1982 in Riverside, Riverside, California.

- j. *Jeannette Isabelle Moore*, born 25 July 1902 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 2 October 1953. She married 3 April 1918 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to Willard James Morgan. He was born 23 December 1898 in Lebelles, Jefferson, Idaho, the son of Joseph Edward Morgan and Nellie Shurtleff. He was not a descendant of Thomas Morgan. He died 5 February 1932 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho. They had two children. She married second Orval H. Peterson on 5 November 1932.

2. **Hannah Elizabeth Morgan**, the second child of Edward Morgan and Sarah West, was born 4 October 1866 in Pleasant Grove, Utah, Utah, and died 22 May 1889 in Freedom (Etna), Lincoln, Wyoming. She married in about 1883, possibly in Leamington, Millard, Utah, to **John Russell Hadden**, born 19 April 1855 in Harmony, Washington, Utah, the son of Alfred Sidney Hadden and Sarah Ann Carter. John died in 1927 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.

It is not known where this couple first lived. At the time they married, her parents were living in Neeley, Idaho. Hannah Elizabeth, her husband John Hadden, and their young son John were among the first settlers of Freedom, Wyoming, pioneering a part of that community now called Etna. They were with scores of relatives discussed in the Thomas Morgan history. Hannah Elizabeth died in Freedom, Lincoln, Wyoming, while giving birth to her second child, Francis, 22 May 1889. The baby boy also died a short time later. Her husband later moved with his son John to the Shelton area of Idaho after her death, and he married a woman named Lydia. He was a brother of Mary Ellen Hadden, who married Melvin Ross.

**Hannah Elizabeth Morgan and John Hadden** had at least two children (*as recorded in early Star Valley LDS Stake records and Edward Morgan's Will in Bonneville County Idaho probates and SS Death Index*):

- a. *John E. Hadden*, born 27 August 1884, possibly in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died in February 1980 in Pilot Rock, Umatilla, Oregon. He married 15 April 1908 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, to Annie Myrtle Nielsen, born about 1892, daughter of Soren Peter Nielsen and Annie Charlotte Peterson.

As a young boy in 1891 John was brought by his widower father to Eastern Idaho, where he grew up in what was then called Rudy (near present Ririe). He and Myrtle had a family identified in the 1920 census of Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and the 1930 census of Paul, Minidoka, Idaho. He is identified as a 44-year-old grandson of Edward Morgan in Edward's will made in March 1928 in Idaho Falls. At that time he was living in Paul, Minidoka, Idaho. His wife was a sister of Martha Grace Neilsen (see page 175), who married Thomas Ezra Morgan (see the information under the family of John Thomas Morgan).

- b. *Francis E*, born 22 May 1889 in Freedom, Lincoln, Wyoming, and died as an infant (*Star Valley Wyoming LDS Stake Records*).
3. **Edward Thomas Morgan**, the third child of Edward Morgan and Sarah West, was born 1 December 1869 in Oak City, Millard, Utah, and died 12 July 1952 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married **Mearb Violet (Lettie) Richardson** in about 1892 in American Fork, Utah. She was born 17 October 1876 in Richmond, Cache, Utah, the daughter of Thomas Richardson and Mearb A. Stone. According to her husband's obituary listed below, Violet died in 1909 after they had moved to Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, but this death date has not been verified by records.
- According to his obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 14 July 1952, Edward and Violet first settled in Neeley, Power, Idaho, but in 1907 moved to Shelton, Idaho, where he farmed for 40 years. He apparently never married again after the untimely death of his wife. In about 1946 Edward moved to Idaho Falls, where he remained until his death at the age of 83.

The children of **Edward Thomas and Lettie Morgan** (*according to Neeley LDS membership records and Eastern Idaho Obituaries, BYU*) were:

- a. *Edward Thomas Morgan*, born 20 April 1893 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 28 November 1973 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. His obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register* on 29 November 1973 states that he was a rancher in the Ririe, Idaho, area for many years and that he was a veteran of World War I, having participated in some of the heaviest battles in France. He was the last survivor of a family of six brothers and one sister. His obituary lists no surviving children or wife.
- b. *Ernest Robert Morgan*, born 13 August 1896 in Neeley, Idaho, and died 26 April 1964 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married Nellie Mae Bigham on 12 January 1916 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She was born 8 November 1896 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the daughter of Rufus Bigham and Ruth Dennis Wilbur. She died 12 March 1955 in Idaho Falls. They had a family of three girls.
- c. *Amos Morgan*, born 8 July 1898 in Neeley, Power, Idaho. Died young.
- d. *Earl Morgan*, born 6 April 1900 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 3 February 1971 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 24 December 1924 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, to Emma LaVell Rasmussen, born 9 May 1906 in Mink Creek, Franklin, Idaho, daughter of Hans Rasmussen and Nancy Nelson. LaVell died 29 May 1997 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
- e. *Irvin Morgan*, born 10 April 1902 in Neeley. He lived in Modesto, California, at the time of his father's death in 1952, and in Bakersfield, California, in 1960 when his brother Albert died.
- f. *Albert Morgan*, born 6 June 1904 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 18 May 1960 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 29 September 1925 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, to Grace Anona Birch (*obituary in Idaho Falls Post Register*, 19 May 1960).
- g. *Dorothy Morgan*, born about 1906 or 1909 and died 12 March 1973 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. She married Russell Duell and was living in Klamath Falls at the time of her father's death in 1952 (*see also Oregon Death Index*).



- h. *Weldon Morgan*, born 9 July 1908, in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died in Pocatello, Idaho, the victim of a homicide on 11 May 1942. He had a wife and four children who survived his murder, as reported in the *Pocatello Tribune* dated 17 May 1942.
4. **Sarah Priscilla Morgan** (aka Priscilla, Figure 30) the fourth child of Edward Morgan and Sarah West, was born 3 August 1872 in Oak City, Millard, Utah, and



Figure 30. An early picture of the Frank and Priscilla Ryset family taken about 1899 or 1900. Back row, left to right: Nora Ryset (1889-1964), Francis Edward Ryset (1893-1963), Violet Viola Ryset (1891-1972). Front Row: Sarah Priscilla Morgan Ryset (1872-1954), Zella Priscilla Ryset (1899-1964), Francis Daniel (Frank) Ryset (1895-1924), Thomas Clarence Ryset (1896-1963).



died 3 March 1954 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married **Francis Daniel Ryset** (aka Frank) on 8 August 1888 in Leamington, Millard, Utah. He was born 11 November 1866 in Deseret, Millard, Utah, son of Francis Frederick Ryset (Rysert) and Nancy Jane Radford. He died 25 February 1924 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.

Shortly after their marriage Priscilla and Frank migrated to Freedom, Wyoming, along with many other family members, including Frank's mother Nancy Jane Radford Ryset, who by that time had married Thomas Morgan as his plural wife (see Part 1 of this book). But in 1891 they moved to Shelton, Idaho, where they remained the rest of their lives and raised a large family (Figure 31). After Frank died in 1924, according to Priscilla's obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 4 March 1954, she moved to Idaho Falls in about 1940 where she was active in her LDS ward activities, especially Primary and Relief Society until her death there in 1954.



**Figure 31.** A later picture of the **Frank Ryset and Priscilla Morgan Ryset family** taken not too long before Frank died in 1924. Back row, left to right: Zella Priscilla Ryset Marler (1899-1964), Ellen Florabell Ryset Butler (1905-2000), Thomas Clarence Ryset (1896-1963), Sarah Jane Ryset Carson (1901-1982), Francis Edward Ryset (1893-1963), Violet Viola Ryset Moore (1891-1972), Nora Ryset Moore (1889-1964). Front Row: Jennie Ryset Borg (1910-1990), Sarah Priscilla Morgan Ryset (1872-1954), Francis Daniel (Frank) Ryset (1865-1924), Leona Ryset Conn (1908-1990).

**Sarah Priscilla Morgan and Frank Ryset** had the following children (*as recorded by the Ancestral File, and records provided by descendants Clayton Conn and Sonya Bridges*):

- a. *Nora Ryset*, born 6 September 1889 in Freedom, Lincoln, Wyoming, and died 27 May 1964 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She married 10 April 1907 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to George Moore, born 25 March 1884 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah, the son of John Thomas Moore and Anna Andersen. He died 26 September 1946 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho (Figure 32).



**Figure 32.** Four generations of the **Priscilla Morgan Ryset and Francis Daniel (Frank) Ryset** family. By age: Sarah Priscilla Morgan Ryset (1872-1954), Nora Ryset Moore (1889-1964), Laverne Moore Johnson (1910-1991), George Kent Johnson (1940-).

- b. *Violet Viola Ryset*, born 5 October 1891 in Willow Creek, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 6 July 1973 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 12 December 1916 to John Moore, born 17 March 1886 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah, son of John Thomas Moore and Anna Andersen. He died 14 January 1935 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
- c. *Francis Edward Ryset*, born 24 September 1893 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 11 October 1963 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 24 September 1923 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, to Mary Louise Blake, born 16 March 1897 in Elkhart, Elkhart, Indiana, daughter of John Blake and Sarah Elizabeth Meyers. Mary died 1 November 1974 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
- d. *Thomas Clarence Ryset*, born 12 June 1896 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 9 July 1963 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He never married.



- e. *Zella Priscilla Ryset*, born 15 July 1899 in Shelton and died 29 November 1964. She married 5 November 1917 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Loran Josiah Marler. He was born 23 May 1896 in Lewisville, Jefferson, Idaho, the son of Samuel Gates Marler and Eliza Ann Taylor. Loren died 10 March 1952 in Lima, Beaverhead, Montana.
  - f. *Sara Jane Ryset*, born 25 November 1901 in Lebelles, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 26 February 1982. She married 26 November 1917 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to William Eugene Carson, born 15 October 1901 in Iona, Bonneville, Idaho, son of Charles Harrison Carson and Charlotte Luella Nixon. She died in January 1989 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
  - g. *Mary Veletta Ryset*, born 5 March 1903 in Shelton and died 30 March 1903.
  - h. *Ellen Florabelle Ryset*, born 20 April 1905 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 4 January 2000 in Payson, Utah, Utah. She married 18 April 1929 to Allen Lathan Butler, born 22 December 1906 in Swan Valley, Bonneville, Idaho, and died in August 1978 in Provo, Utah, Utah.
  - i. *Leona Ryset*, born 12 February 1908 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 4 January 1990 in Terretton, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 8 October 1928 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Jack L. Conn. He was born 16 March 1903 in Glasco, Cloud, Kansas, the son of George Conn and Della Kimberling. He died 12 October 1979 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.
  - j. *Jennie Ryset*, born 6 May 1910 in Shelton, Idaho, and died 22 January 1990 of Alzheimer's in Orem, Utah, Utah. She married 30 April 1938 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Edward Borg. He was born 5 October 1910 in Sawyer, Door, Wisconsin, the son of Franz Emil Borgerson and Juliane Abrahamson Rosland. He died 16 April 1969 in Seattle, King, Washington.
5. **William Henry Morgan**, the fifth child of Edward and Sarah Morgan, was born 8 January 1875 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 21 December 1882, probably in Neeley, Power, Idaho.
  6. **Joseph John Morgan**, the sixth child of Edward and Sarah Morgan, was born 29 April 1878 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 22 December 1882, probably in Neeley, Power, Idaho.
  7. **Mary Emma Morgan** (Figure 33), the seventh child of Edward and Sarah, was born 30 November 1879 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 21 October 1964 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married **Franklin L. Brown** (Figure 34) on 27 January 1898 in Prospect, Bingham, Idaho. He was born 1 December 1872 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of William Brown and Ellen Burnett. He died 30 October 1966 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho (*obituary in Idaho Falls Post Register, October 31, 1966*).  
 When Mary Emma was just two years old, the family, traveling with wagons and driving their livestock, moved to what became Neeley, Idaho, where she spent her first few years. But in about 1886 her family moved back to Leamington, Utah.



She was about 10 years old when the family left Leamington to settle in Freedom, Wyoming, and 12 when they moved again, finally settling in what is now Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho.

*From a life sketch of Mary Emma written by an unidentified descendant.*

Two years after Mary Emma married Frank Brown he was called on an LDS mission to the American southern states, from 1900 to 1903. During that time she and her young daughter lived with relatives in Shelton.

In 1905 Frank and Mary Emma Brown bought a farm in the Shelton, Idaho, tract where they raised their family. In 1913 they moved into a new rock house on upper Shelton Road.

Mary Emma was always willing to serve in her LDS Church ward, and was active in the Relief Society, Primary and other church auxiliaries. As a member of a pioneer family she was a charter member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

On January 20, 1948, they were honored at a reception at their home celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

She and her husband are both buried in the Ririe-Shelton Cemetery, Bonneville County, Idaho.

*According to Frank Brown's obituary cited above:*

Emma and Frank went together on an LDS mission to Southern California in 1947. He was one of the biggest dry farm wheat growers in the Ririe, Idaho, area and was the first in the area to use a combine threshing machine. He built his own home and lived in it for 55 years. He was the first president of the Enterprise Canal Co., was on the AAA wheat board, and president of the Ririe Grain Growers which he had helped to organize. He helped build many of the canals in the area. Mr. Brown was also in the sheep business and had a farm in Canada.

**Mary Emma Morgan and Franklin Brown** had the following children, fourth generation descendants of Thomas and Ann Morgan (*Ancestral File and Eastern Idaho Obituaries, BYU*):



**Figure 33. Mary Emma Morgan Brown with baby Lorene born in 1900.** This mother and child portrait is rather unusual in our Morgan/Radford family. It was probably made to send to her husband, Frank Brown, while he was away from his family on a mission for the LDS church.



**Figure 34. Franklin Brown (1873-1966) and Mary Emma Morgan Brown (1879-1964).**



**Figure 35. Franklin and Mary Emma Brown family.** Back row, left to right: Velma Sarah Brown Nelson (1911-2002), Karl Morgan Brown (1914-1987), Merle Von Brown (1917-), Lynn Frank Brown (1908-1999), Lorena Ellen Brown Foster (1900-1978). Front row, L-R: Harold Edward Brown (1903-1962), Franklin Brown (1873-1966), Mary Emma Morgan Brown (1879-1964), Lawrence William Brown (1906-1986).

- a. *Lorena Ellen Brown*, born 25 July 1900 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 22 July 1978 in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho. She married 14 June 1924 in Shelton to Claxton Edwin Foster on 14 June 1924, born 11 November 1902 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of George Francis Foster and Margaret Emily Johnson. He died 4 January 1978 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho.
  - b. *Harold Edward Brown*, born 11 November 1903 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 31 March 1962 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 6 February 1929 to Laverda Hurst. She was born 14 September 1907 in Paris, Bear Lake, Idaho, the daughter of Fredrick Hurst and Deseret Lindsey. She died 7 October 1990 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.
  - c. *Lawrence William Brown*, born 1 April 1906 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died in 30 October 1986 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. He married Ada Anderson.
  - d. *Lynn Frank Brown*, born 3 September 1908 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 9 September 1999 in a car wreck. He married 17 December 1934 to Ina Phyllis Smout, born 6 February 1918 in Mink Creek, Bannock, Idaho, daughter of Edwin Ward Smout and Ina Josephine Peterson. Ina died 30 July 1979 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho. After a divorce Lynn was married second to Bertha Cooper.
  - e. *Velma Sarah Brown*, born 28 April 1911 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 15 May 2002 in Columbia Falls, Flathead, Montana. She married 15 March 1934 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho, to Anton Melvern (Mel) Nelson, born 27 November 1904 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, son of Anton Nelson and Mattie Martin. He died 19 July 1987 in Columbia Falls, Flathead, Montana (*SS Death Index*).
  - f. *Karl Morgan Brown*, born 1 May 1914 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 11 July 1987 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married first 20 July 1934 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho, to Mary Luelle Jensen. She died 25 January 1962. He married second 19 June 1964 to Nellie Ann Ferguson (Ellis).
  - g. *Merle Von Brown*, born 13 January 1917 at Shelton, Idaho. He married Zelda Edith Neville, born 25 June 1924 in Idaho, daughter of James Vivyen Neville and Edith Louisa Hunting. They were married 13 July 1940. They lived in the house built in Shelton by Edward and Sarah West Morgan until 2004.
8. **Robert Morgan** (Figure 36), the eighth child of Edward and Sarah Morgan, was born 24 August 1883 at Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, on 23 September 1939. He was about eight years old when his parents settled in Shelton, Idaho. He remained in Eastern Idaho the rest of his life. He married **Delora Ross** on 12 February 1902. She was born 23 March 1887 in Joseph, Sevier, Utah, the daughter of Melvin Ross and Mary Ellen Hadden. After a divorce from Delora, sometime after 1920, he married second on 19 January 1929 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to **Edith Workman**. His obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 26 September 1939, mentions no wives and no descendants. He died at his sister Mary Emma Brown's home in Ririe, Idaho. He fathered three children





**Figure 36. Robert Morgan** (1883-1939), son of Edward and Sarah West Morgan.

with Delora Ross but all of them died young. His first wife Delora remarried William W. Swain on 9 September 1933. She died 16 January 1967 near Ririe, Idaho.

**Robert Morgan and Delora** had the following children:

- a. *Robert William Morgan*, born 5 November 1911 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 5 November 1911.
- b. *Ross Dennis Morgan*, born 28 June 1916 and died 7 May 1919.
- c. *Melvin Morgan*, born 30 January 1919 and died 30 January 1919.

9. **Elenore Morgan**, the ninth child of Edward and Sarah Morgan was born 24 February 1885 at Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 25 February 1885, in Neeley (*Neeley LDS membership records*).



## Chapter 8

### Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley

**Elizabeth (Betsey) Morgan**, the second child born to Thomas Morgan and Ann Watkins Morgan, was born 31 August 1845 in Bellhoughton, Worcestershire, England, and died 6 January 1925 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. She married **Robert Gourley**, born 19 February 1839 in Glasgow, Barony, Lanarkshire, Scotland, son of Paul Gourley and Margaret Glass. He died 3 March 1905 in Goshen, Utah, Utah (Figure 37).

*This life sketch was extracted in part from “The History of Robert Gourley” by Stephen Gourley, 1995.*

As a young girl Elizabeth lived mainly in the parish of Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, where her parents had settled. As a farm laborer her father found temporary or seasonal work in different communities, thus her birth in Bellhoughton, located about 30 miles from Bishops Frome.

When Elizabeth was about six years old, in 1851, her parents joined the Mormon Church and looked forward to emigrating to Utah. In 1855, 10-year-old Elizabeth boarded the ship *Siddons* in Liverpool, England, with her parents and sisters Eliza and Priscilla, for the long journey to America. It took the ship two months to reach Philadelphia, where they disembarked. After a railroad trip to Pittsburgh, the next two months were spent traveling down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi to St. Louis, Missouri, and then up the Missouri River on to Atchison, Kansas, riding on at least three different steamboats.

Elizabeth’s family spent the summer of 1855 working on a large LDS Church-owned farm in Garden Grove, Kansas. The Morgans left Garden Grove on 5 August 1855, spending most of the next three months traveling in the Milo Andrus wagon train, crossing 1200 miles of plains and mountains to the Salt Lake Valley, reaching their destination in late October of 1855.

Elizabeth’s first home in Utah was Kaysville, about 20 miles north of Salt Lake City. Two years before her arrival, her uncle Joseph Morgan and her older brother Edward had made the trip to Utah and had settled in Kaysville.

After two years in Kaysville her Morgan family moved to Goshen, Utah. Located about 30 miles south of Provo, Goshen was founded in 1857, and her parents were original pioneers of that community. They may have lived for a brief time in Old Fort Goshen where the original settlers of Goshen lived until they were able to claim home sites in the newly founded town.



**Figure 37.** Sitting: Elizabeth (Betsy) Morgan Gourley (1845-1925). Standing: Daughter Janet (Nettie) Gourley Foster (1883-1967).

In 1862, at the age of 17, Elizabeth Morgan married **Robert Gourley** while living in Goshen. When Robert was 13 years old his mother died. But in 1853 his father Paul Gourley married his second wife, Ellison Japp. In 1856 the family of six made the journey to Utah. Robert and his brother Alexander were teamsters, driving wagons for Elder William Hodgett which followed behind the ill-fated Martin Handcart Company across the plains to the Salt Lake Valley. By 1858 Robert, his parents, and siblings settled in the newly founded community of Goshen, Utah.

In 1866 Elizabeth and Robert moved temporarily to the pioneer community of Deseret, where her parents and other relatives were involved in the initial founding of that town on the Sevier River in Millard County, Utah. But probably by 1868, when Deseret was abandoned by its first pioneers, Elizabeth and Robert moved back to Goshen, where they settled for the rest of their lives and raised a family of 11 children. They were a farm family, and Robert was a water master for an important irrigation ditch which delivered water to farms in the Goshen area. Later in her life Elizabeth traveled occasionally to the Ririe area of Eastern Idaho where she appears in at least two group picture with her parents and siblings. The first of these pictures (Figure 24) was taken before her mother died in 1894. The second picture (Figure 43), taken about 1917, shows her with most of her siblings and half siblings.

Robert Gourley (Figure 38) died in Goshen on 6 January 1905, leaving Elizabeth a widow with their two youngest unmarried children and nine married children. A few years before her death, Elizabeth moved to Eureka, Utah, to be close to two of her sons, a daughter and their families who were living there. She died in Eureka in January of 1925. She is buried in the Goshen Cemetery next to her husband.



Figure 38. Robert Gourley (1839-1905).

The children of **Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley**, all born in Goshen, Utah, were:

1. Robert Thomas Paul Gourley, 1863
2. Margaret Elizabeth Gourley, 1865
3. Allison Ann Gourley, 1867
4. Mary Ellen Gourley, 1869
5. Nickolas Luella Gourley, 1871
6. George D. Gourley, 1873



7. William Gourley, 1875
8. Robert Gourley, 1878
9. James Henry Gourley, 1880
10. Janet Gourley, 1883
11. Edward Sidney Gourley, 1886

1. **Robert Thomas Paul Gourley** (aka Paul), the first child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 14 March 1863 in Goshen, Utah, and died 9 October 1924 in Hagerman, Gooding, Idaho. He married **Elizabeth Ann Weech** 3 June 1883 in Leamington, Millard, Utah. She was born 8 June 1868 in Deseret, Millard, Utah, the daughter of Joseph Samuel Weech and Ava Emma Wilkins. She died 21 December 1951 in Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Paul and Elizabeth moved from Utah to what is now the American Falls, Idaho, area where they had at least four children. According to Elizabeth's obituary in the "*Gooding Leader*," 27 December 1951, they also lived a short time in Camas Prairie, Blaine, Idaho, but moved to Hagerman, Gooding, Idaho, in 1889 where they raised their family and remained until their deaths.

The children of **Paul and Elizabeth Weech Gourley** were:

- a. *Elizabeth Ann Gourley*, born 15 July 1885 in what is now American Falls, Power, Idaho and died 25 May 1965 in Hagerman, Gooding, Idaho. She married first 2 November 1904 in Lincoln, County, Idaho, to Nat Stines Owsley, who was born 2 November 1877 in Corinne, Box Elder, Utah, son of Thomas Lee Owsley and Mary Louise Durfee. Nat died 11 September 1924. She married second John Daniel Ellis who was born 30 January 1880 in Logan, Cache, Utah, the son of John Daniel Ellis and Elvina Fjeldsted. He died in June 1963 in Twin Falls, Idaho. He is buried in Hagerman, Gooding, Idaho (*BYUI Death Records Index*).
- b. *Robert Joseph Gourley*, born 1 August 1886 in what is now American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 8 August 1886.
- c. *Millie Melissa Gourley*, born 13 January 1888 in present American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died in April 1984 in Burley, Cassia, Idaho. She married 7 September 1905 in Shoshone, Lincoln, Idaho, to Alvin Clark Owsley, son of Thomas Lee Owsley and Mary Louise Durfee. He was born 15 April 1882 in Almo, Cassia, Idaho, and died 10 June 1933. She married second 11 August 1934 to Glenn L. Beltz, born about 1884 and died 15 January 1945 in Hagerman, Gooding, Idaho. She married third Ralph Barton, born about 1884.
- d. *Beatrice Gourley*, born 1 October 1894 in Safford, Graham, Arizona, and died in March 1984 in Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho. She married 28 August 1911 in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah, to George Dennison Durfee who was born 19 June 1888 in Almo, Cassia, Idaho, son of George Leonard Durfee and Helen Eliza Graham. George died 5 February 1970 in Wendell, Gooding, Idaho.



2. **Margaret Elizabeth Gourley**, the second child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 15 May 1865 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died 28 July 1894 in Goshen, Utah, Utah. She married March 1885 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, to **Volney Boswell**, who was born 6 February 1858 in Nephi, Juab, Utah. He was a son of Abraham Boswell and Gerusha Lucretia Hambleton. Volney died 2 May 1893 in Nephi, Juab, Utah.

The child of **Margaret Gourley and Volney Boswell** was:

- a. *Robert Hambleton Boswell*, born 25 September 1885 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died 25 August 1954 in Provo, Utah, Utah. He married first 11 June 1907 in Provo, Utah, to Elizabeth Finch who was born 9 November 1887 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, daughter of Hyrum Finch and Mary Ann Garbett. They had a family of seven. He married second Elvira Irene Greenhalgh 19 May 1949. She was born 3 November 1891 in Spring Lake, Utah, Utah, daughter of James Greenhalgh and Mary Ellen Kay. Elvira died 13 June 1981.
3. **Allison Ann Gourley**, the third child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 10 April 1867 in Goshen, Utah, Utah. She married in about 1887 to **Brigham Riley**, who was born about 1863 in Goshen, Utah, Utah. They had no children.
4. **Mary Ellen Gourley**, the fourth child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 8 August 1869 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died 26 March 1928 in Alberta, Canada. She married 28 March 1894 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, to **Walter Scott Rouse**, born in Goshen, Utah, son of John Rouse and Rachel Harris. They had no children. Walter died 30 April 1942 in Alberta, Canada.  
 Mary Ellen and Walter left Utah in about 1910 and emigrated to a wheat farming area near Raymond, Alberta, Canada, where he operated a large wheat farm. They also were involved in sugar beet production. Every winter they traveled to California for the winter season, then returned to Alberta in spring to plant their wheat (*notes from Bert Rouse, a nephew*).
5. **Nickolas Luella Gourley** (aka Luella), the fifth child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 16 December 1871 in Goshen, Utah, and died 2 May 1951. She married 9 November 1891 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, to **George Ira Ercanbrack**, who was born 8 April 1868 in Payson, Utah, Utah, son of William Thomas Ercanbrack and Ruth Ann Seabury (*Ancestral File*). He died 17 December 1924. George Ercanbrack is listed in the 1920 census as a single man in Oatman, Mohave, Arizona, where he was working as a gold miner.
6. **George D. Gourley**, the sixth child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 15 November 1873 in Goshen, Utah, and died 10 July 1962 in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah. He grew to adulthood in Goshen. He married 4 March 1893 in

Goshen to **Minnie Rose Finch**, daughter of William Finch and Eliza Fowler. Minnie was born 9 March 1875 in Goshen and died 28 May 1963 in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah. During most of their lives they were residents of Goshen and Provo, Utah, but also spent some years working for the mines in Silver City, about 25 miles west of Goshen, Utah. In 1950 they moved to Brigham City, Utah, until their deaths. (See George Gourley obituary in *Ogden Standard Examiner*, 11 July 1962, and Minnie Gourley obituary *Ogden Standard Examiner*, 29 May 1963.

The children of **George and Minnie Gourley** were (from *Our Finch Ancestors and Their Connections*, by Cindy Brock Gurr, Salt Lake City, 2001):

- a. *Prudence LaVera Gourley*, born 23 December 1893 in Goshen, Utah, Utah. She married Joseph Edwin Peck, who was born 26 April 1893 in Vineyard, Utah, Utah, son of Alma Mattison Peck and Sarah Wilkinson Stock. Joseph died 31 July 1913 in Provo, Utah, Utah. Prudence married second Valjean Potts Howells, who was born 28 July 1891 in Woodland, Summit, Utah, son of George Edward Howells and Julia Jane Potts. Valjean died 4 November 1960. Prudence died 14 October 1959 in La Canada, Los Angeles, California.
- b. *William Clyde Gourley*, born 24 November 1895 in Goshen, Utah, Utah. He married 22 August 1918 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Margaret Eliza Petersen. She was born 9 May 1896 in Salem, Utah, Utah, daughter of Friedrich Ludwig Eduard Petersen and Magdalena Dorothea Dieckmann. He had two children with Margaret but they later divorced. Margaret died 24 October 1977 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah. William married second 11 October 1922 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Bessie Averett (Benson), born 23 February 1897 in Springville, Utah, Utah, daughter of George Edward Averett and Mary Alice Mason. William and Bessie had four children. Bessie died 25 April 1983 in Springville, Utah, Utah. William died 29 December 1960 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- c. *Clinton George Gourley*, born 15 May 1898 in Silver City, Juab, Utah, and died 9 June 1916. He never married.
- d. *Eva Jane Gourley*, born 27 March 1901 in Goshen, Utah, Utah. She married 12 July 1919 to Rudger Valdimar Sorenson, who was born 13 September 1899 in Big Cottonwood (Holladay), Salt Lake, Utah. He was a son of Peter Sorenson and Melinda Jane North. Rudger (Rudd) died 19 February 1966. They had three children and were living in La Canada, Los Angeles, California, when her father died in 1962.
- e. *Roland Marl Gourley*, born 27 September 1905 in Silver City, Utah, Utah, and died 1 October 1987 in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah. He married 28 June 1927 Jennie Tuttle who was born 27 July 1907, the daughter of Lawrence Austin Tuttle and Clara Amy Killpack. Jennie died in May 1993 in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah.
- f. *Joseph Ira Gourley*, born 22 November 1906 in Silver City, Juab, Utah, and died 24 April 1964. He married 21 January 1928 in Logan Cache, Utah, to Bernice Naomi Bush, born 19 December 1910, daughter of John Paul Bush and Phoebe Delilah Shields. Bernice died October 1985 in Ogden Weber, Utah (*BYUI Marriage Records Index and IGI*).

7. **William Gourley**, the seventh child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 1 December 1875 and died 29 February 1916. He married 8 October 1898 in Goshen, Utah, to **Dora Emma Morgan**, daughter of Thomas Albert Morgan and Catherine Christensen. Dora was born 29 March 1881 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died 21 May 1970. After William's death she married second Charles Bloom, and third John Domaehowski.

**William and Dora Gourley** had the following children:

- a. *Leah Catherine Gourley*, born 5 February 1901 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died in March 1986 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She married 29 September 1919 to William Steward Higham, who was born 29 December 1897 in Salt Lake City, Utah, son of William Stewart Higham and Ida Annie Cope. He died 20 December 1987 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
  - b. *Delta Dora Gourley*, born 15 March 1906 in Eureka, Juab, Utah (*Eureka, Utah, LDS membership records*).
8. **Robert Gourley**, the eighth child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 8 March 1878 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died 11 March 1944 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. He married 17 April 1907 in Provo, Utah, to **Margaret Knotts**, who was born 19 July 1884 in Tanfield, Durham, England, and died 23 October 1963 in Payson, Utah, Utah.

**Robert and Margaret Gourley's** children are (*information provided by descendant Kent Gourley*):

- a. *Gerald Gourley*, born May 1902 in Provo, Utah, Utah, and died March 1903.
- b. *Robert Lamar Gourley*, born 30 November 1907 in Mammoth, Juab, Utah, and died 27 January 1980 in Orem, Utah, Utah. He married 18 July 1918 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah, to Mary Laverne Losee, who was born 17 August 1910 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah, daughter of Lyman Francis Losee and Emma Jane Beckstrom. Mary died 19 March 1979 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah.
- c. *Joseph LeRoy Gourley* (aka Roy), born 8 November 1909 in Mammoth, Juab, Utah, and died 16 September 1987 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. He married 25 April 1930 to Erma Ellen Broderick in Provo, Utah, Utah (*Provo Herald* 17 September 1987).
- d. *Walter Stephen Gourley*, born 8 May 1911 in Eureka, Juab, Utah, and died 21 March 1913.
- e. *Floyd Gourley*, born 5 February 1914 in Eureka, Juab, Utah, and died 1 January 1984 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. He married 11 January 1936 to Cecelia Elizabeth Ryan and lived in Eureka, Utah (*Provo Herald*, 2 January 1984).
- f. *Maxine Gourley*, born 27 August 1916 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. She married John Wellings Schow, who was born 13 May 1917 in Escalante, Garfield, Utah, son of Joseph Ira Schow and Leatha Porter (*Ancestral File, 1930 census*). John died 3 January 1983 and is buried in the Eureka, Utah, Cemetery (*Utah Cemetery Inventory*).

- g. *Marcella Gourley*, born 27 January 1919 in Eureka, Juab, Utah, and died 27 October 1999 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. She married Wayne Warr Chambers and lived in Eureka, Utah. He was born 17 December 1914 and died 19 December 1988 and is buried in the Eureka, Utah, Cemetery (*Utah Cemetery Inventory*).
  - h. *Genevieve Gourley*, born 28 May 1921 in Eureka, Juab, Utah, and died 23 December 1949. She married, unknown (*Ancestral File*).
  - i. *Bernice Gourley*, born 7 October 1923 in Eureka, Juab, Utah, and died 1 July 2003 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. She married 22 March 1945 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Mark Leo Taylor, who was born 3 May 1920 in Springville, Utah, Utah, son of Willie James Taylor and Hannah Electa Wood. He died 19 January 1998 in Eureka, Juab, Utah.
  - j. *Bonnie Jean Gourley*, born 27 June 1926, Eureka, Juab, Utah, and died 30 June 1926.
  - k. *Mary Laverne Gourley*, born 5 December 1927 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. She married William Keith Snyder.
9. **James Henry Gourley**, the ninth child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 13 May 1880 in Goshen, Utah, and died 21 June 1945 in Eureka, Juab, Utah. He first married 26 December 1902 in Goshen, Utah, to **Maggie May Rolfe**. She was born 4 March 1883 in Payson, Utah, Utah, daughter of Ianthus Jerome Rolfe and Louisa Jane Mikesell. Maggie died 18 January 1944 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. James and Maggie divorced.

The children of **James and Maggie Gourley** were (*Ancestral File, Social Security Death Index, and records of Teresa Moorman*):

- a. *Harold James Gourley*, born 14 May 1901 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died 15 May 1965, probably in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. He married 19 August 1924 to Hattie Bliss, who was born 12 December 1904 in Oregon. She died 27 February 1983 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon.
- b. *Margaret Gourley*, born 24 March 1903 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died in Oregon. She married in about 1919 to Ralph L. Morrow. He was born 15 August 1897 in Oregon, son of Joseph D. Morrow, and died 5 December 1987 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. They lived in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon, where they had a family.
- c. *Blanche Elizabeth Gourley*, born 11 November 1904 in Nephi, Juab, Utah, and died 26 March 1985. She married Henry Jory Quimby, born 19 July 1896 in Gridley, Butte, California, and died 13 April 1975 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. He was the son of Richard Wainwright Quimby and Eliza Maria Jory. He is buried in the Mt. Laki Cemetery in Klamath, Oregon (*Klamath Cemetery Index*).
- d. *Robert Hamiltine Gourley*, born 21 November 1906 in Silver City, Juab, Utah, and died 2 January 1976 in Burbank, Walla Walla, Washington. He married Stella Webb.



- e. *William Lavar Gourley*, born 16 September 1908 in Eureka, Juab, Utah, and died 5 May 1975 in Applegate, Jackson, Oregon. He married 4 April 1931 in Swan Lake, Klamath, Oregon, to Iva Rosalie Stiles, daughter of Perly Everett Stiles and Melissa Isadore Payne. Iva was born on 14 August 1913 in Swan Lake, Klamath, Oregon, and died 2 November 2001 in Grants Pass, Josephine, Oregon.

**James Henry Gourley** married second **Roxie E. Finlayson**. This marriage ended in divorce. One child was born to this union:

- f. *Thomas Gourley*.

**James Henry Gourley** married third **Caroline Butler**.

10. **Janet Gourley**, tenth child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 9 November 1883 in Goshen, Utah, and died 15 December 1967 in Provo, Utah, Utah. She married 3 April 1906 to **James Paul Foster**, born about 1879 in possibly Goshen, Utah. He died in Eureka, Juab, Utah, on 6 December 1939.

Janet's obituary in the *Provo Herald*, 17 December 17 1967, states that she received her education in the Goshen schools. After her marriage, she made her home in Eureka, where James Paul Foster worked as a teamster and she worked as a clerk in the Eureka City Water Department. After Foster's death, she moved to Provo and was employed by the Utah Poultry Company for 10 years, retiring in 1953. Survivors include nieces and nephews. No surviving children are listed.

11. **Edward Sidney Gourley** (aka Ted), the eleventh and youngest child of Elizabeth Morgan and Robert Gourley, was born 30 March 1886 in Goshen, Utah, Utah, and died 23 September 1962 in Picture Butte, Alberta, Canada. He married 18 May 1912 in Cardston, Alberta, Canada, to **Amy Quinton**, daughter of James Quinton and Elizabeth Ann Dunford. She was born 27 September 1894 in Cardston, Alberta, Canada, and died 5 November 1980 in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada (Figure 39).

*The following life sketch was written by their son, Edward Robert Gourley, in 2004:*

In about 1905 Ted Gourley migrated to Alberta, Canada, where his sister Mary Ellen Rouse was living. Her husband, Walter Rouse, had a farm near the town of Raymond, one of the early settlements in southern Alberta. Ted worked for some time on a large cattle ranch, the Bar K2 near Cardston, and at one time had a barber shop in Cardston. Ted loved the outdoors and working with animals. In 1913 he married a fair-haired lass named Amy Quinton and during the next 20 years they brought forth 10 children; nine of them grew to full maturity, and one was stillborn. Ted continued to farm in Raymond and Warner and worked during the sugar beet season at the Canadian Sugar Factory in Raymond.

In 1936 the sugar company built a new refinery at Picture Butte, and he moved his family there where he and Amy raised their children and lived for the remainder of his life. He was buried in the family plot in Raymond in 1962. Ted was in excellent health for most of his entire life and always had farm animals at home. He kept a milk cow, a pig to take care of the excess milk,



**Figure 39. Amy Quinton Gourley (1894-1980), Edward Sidney (Ted) Gourley (1886-1962).**

and a few chickens for eggs. In spring he kept an extra few chicken fryers for the freezer. Upon Ted's passing, Amy moved into the city of Lethbridge, Alberta, where she remained for the next 16 years before her passing in 1980.

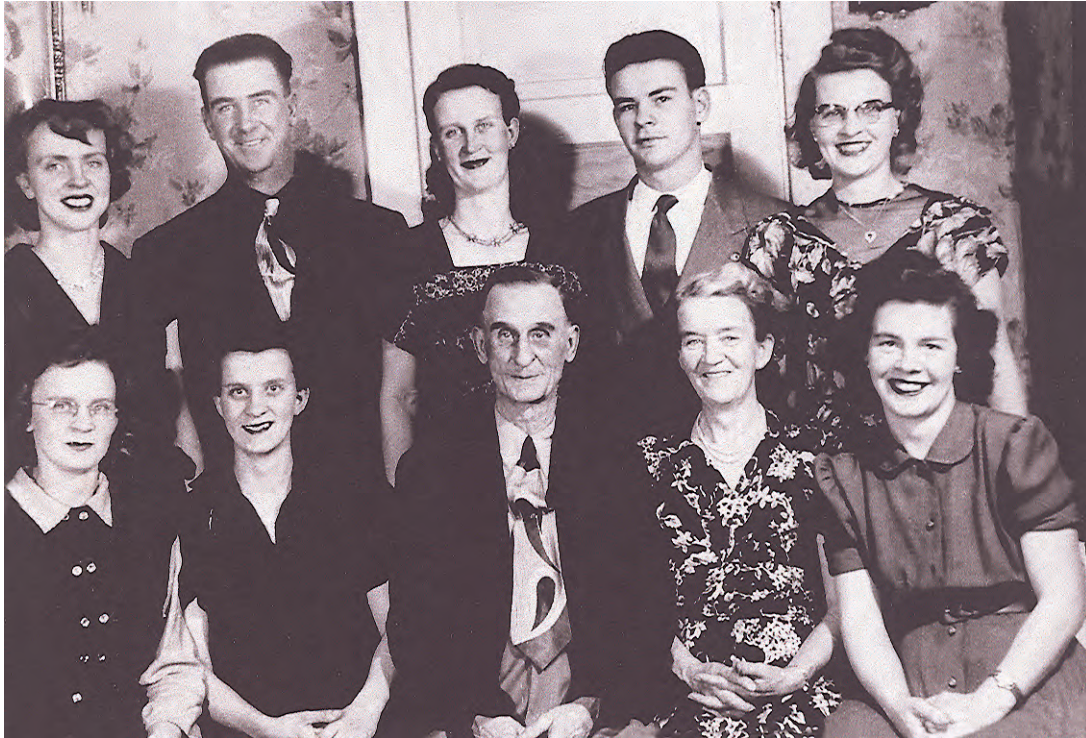
Amy's parents and most of their large family were English immigrants who had joined the LDS Church, and after living in Bear Lake County, Idaho, for a few years, moved to a homestead farm just outside the Mormon town of Cardston just before Amy was born." (For a life sketch of Amy's Quinton family, see *Chief Mountain Country, A History of the Cardston District*, Vol. II, Cardston, Alberta, 1987, pages 422-424.)

*The following was extracted from a life sketch of Edward and Amy Gourley in the book Wagons to Wings, Warner, Alberta, 1987, page 460.*

The Gourleys first lived on a ranch at Woolford, Alberta, several miles east of Cardston. Some time after about 1913 they moved to Raymond, Alberta, where he continued as a rancher. In 1918 they moved to the community of Warner, Alberta, where they were ranching until 1921 when they moved back to Raymond. For several years, Ted became involved in the sugar beet industry, farming and working in a local sugar mill.

The children of **Edward Sidney (Ted) Gourley and Amy Quinton** (Figure 40) were (from records provided by Edward Robert Gourley, the books, *Wagons to Wings, Warner Alberta* and *Raymond Remembered* listed below):

- a. *Delbert Vernon Gourley*, born 12 April 1913 in Woolford, Alberta, Canada, and died 16 April 1988 in Coaldale, Alberta, where he worked in the oil industry. He married 12 September 1931 in Raymond, Alberta, to Eliza Jane Richardson,



**Figure 40. Ted and Amy Gourley family.** Back row, left to right: Lorna Beth Gourley Jarvis Blount (1924), Delbert Vernon Gourley (1913-1988), Mary Ellen Gourley Smith (1921-), Edward Robert Gourley (1931-), Melve Bess Gourley (1918-). Front row, L-R: Mildred Ruth Gourley Dalglish (1928-), Bonnie Jean Gourley Pokornik (1933-1990), Edward Sidney (Ted) Gourley (1886-1962), Amy Quinton Gourley (1894-1980), Garnet Amy Gourley Jackson Boyes (1927-1945).

who was born 9 January 1912 in Payson, Utah, Utah, daughter of David Samuel Richardson and Eliza Jane Betts. They lived in Coaldale, Alberta.

- b. *Twila Gourley*, born 14 February 1915 in Raymond, Alberta, Canada, and died 7 January 1935 of pneumonia in Los Angeles, California. She never married.
- c. *Son Gourley*, 18 June 1917 and died 18 June 1917 in Raymond, Alberta, Canada.
- d. *Melva Bess Gourley* (aka Mia), born 24 August 1918 in Warner, Alberta, Canada. She married 22 October 1935 in Raymond, Alberta, to Burt William (Bill) Zobell, son of Walter Hans Zobell and Charlotte Mary Mehew. He was born about 1915. They lived on a farm near Raymond.
- e. *Mary Ellen Gourley*, born 8 August 1921 in Warner, Alberta, Canada. She married 10 December 1938 in Raymond, Alberta, to Glen Smith, born in 1920, son of Thomas S. Smith. After living for a time in Dimmit, Alberta, they later settled in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada.
- f. *Lorna Beth Gourley*, born 2 October 1924 in Raymond, Alberta. The Picture Butte Ward LDS membership records show she married Marvin Dalmain Jarvis on 12 November 1942. The book *Barnwell History*, page 387, shows she married Marvin Dalmain Jarvis, who was born 7 May 1922 in Evarts, Alberta, son of William Freeman Jarvis and Louise Johnson. They were married in



- Nobleford, Alberta, according to the book, *Raymond Remembered*, page 209. Lorna later married Robert L. Blount, born in 1928.
- g. *Amy Garnet Gourley*, born 4 August 1927 in Raymond, Alberta. She married first 10 January 1945 in Picture Butte, Alberta, Canada, to Alton Franklin Jackson, born in 1918. After having three children with him, they divorced. She married second Keith Norman Boyes, born 13 March 1925 in Dodsland, Saskatchewan, Canada, son of Norman Francis Boyes and Kathleen Margurite Bloodworth.
  - h. *Mildred Ruth Gourley*, born 16 November 1928 in Raymond, Alberta. She married 24 May 1948 in Picture Butte, Alberta, Canada, to Jack Charles Dalgleish and settled in Kamloops, British Columbia.
  - i. *Edward Robert Gourley* (aka Ted), born 3 January 1931 in Raymond, Alberta, Canada. He married 28 June 1951 in Picture Butte, Alberta, to Naida Oler, born 2 August 1929 in Sterling, Alberta, daughter of Lloyd Oler and Jennie Fawns. They settled in Norwalk, Los Angeles, California, but retired to West Valley City, Salt Lake, Utah.
  - j. *Bonnie Jean Gourley*, born 22 January 1933 in Raymond, Alberta, Canada, and died 23 October 1990 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She married John Pokornik, born in 1929, of Saskatchewan. He died in Edmonton, Alberta, in about 2001.

## Sources

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- Wagons to Wings*, Warner, Alberta, Warner Historical Society, 1987.
- Raymond Remembered, Settlers, Sugar and Stampedes*. Published in Raymond, Alberta, in 1993, page 209, includes a photograph of the Gourley family.
- Chief Mountain Country A history of Cardston District*, Vol II. Cardston Historical Society, Cardston 1987, pages 422-424.



## Chapter 9

### Eliza Morgan and George Morrison

**Eliza Morgan** was the third child of Thomas Morgan and Ann Watkins. She was born 11 April 1849 in Bishops Frome, Herefordshire, England, and died 26 June 1882 in Oak City, Millard, Utah. She married in 1868 in Deseret, Millard, Utah, **George Morrison**, born 22 May 1844 in Arbroath, Angus, Scotland, and died 25 April 1927 in Provo, Utah, Utah.

She was nearly six years old when the Morgan family boarded the *Siddons* in Liverpool, England, in February 1855 to sail for America. She probably retained memories into her adult life of sailing across the sea to Philadelphia, riding on trains and steamboats to what is now Kansas, and trekking across the Great Plains to the Salt Lake Valley.

After about two years in Kaysville, Utah, the Morgan family moved to Goshen, Utah, Utah, where they lived from 1857 to about 1866. When she was a teenager, the Morgan family left their home in Goshen to join other pioneers in a completely raw frontier in the community of Deseret, Millard, Utah. It was in Deseret in 1868 that Eliza met and married her husband George Morrison.

George Morrison was born in Arbroath, Angus, Scotland. He came to America at the age of 11, first settling in Illinois. At 19 he moved to Utah, where he was a pioneer at Deseret, Oak City, and Leamington, Millard County. Eliza Morgan was his first wife.

Eliza and George lived for only a short time in Deseret before moving to the newly founded village of Oak City probably by 1870.

Between 1868 and 1882 Eliza and George had at least five children, all born in Oak City, Millard, Utah, but none of them survived to adulthood. Two or three of their children died before 1880. In about 1882, diphtheria claimed their remaining three children.

According to a brief life sketch of Eliza and George by Ava N. Anderson in the book listed below compiled by Margaret Roper,\* Eliza Morgan Morrison, who was crippled, died 26 June 1882 in Oak City, leaving her husband entirely without his family, as all of her children had also died. Some secondary sources report that Eliza died in 1892 but that appears to be an error.

Sometime after 1882, perhaps shortly after Eliza's death, George moved to Leamington, Utah, where he obtained land from Eliza's father, Thomas Morgan, on which he built the first store in the community. He later helped build some charcoal kilns, two of which are still there less than two miles east of Leamington. He later staked a claim on a lead mine at Fool Creek near the mountains above Leamington. While living

in Leamington, George met and married his second wife, Eunice Stewart. She was a schoolteacher in Leamington.

According to his obituary in the *Provo Evening Herald* on 25 April 1927, George died at his residence in Provo after a long illness. He was 82 when he died, and was survived by his widow Eunice and three sons [by her]: Stewart Morrison of Provo, L. R. Morrison and A. W. Morrison of Salt Lake City. The obituary does not mention his first marriage to Eliza.

The obituary further states that George Morrison was in the cattle business in Leamington and lived for some time in Benjamin, Utah, Utah. He and his family moved to Provo in about 1905 where he resided until his death.

In the 1870 census of Deseret (Oak City) Eliza and George had one child, Ann. In the 1880 census of Oak City, Eliza and George had three children living at that time.

The children of **Eliza Morgan and George Morrison** were:

1. **Ann Jennett (Nettie) Morrison**, born 26 September 1869 in Oak City, Millard, Utah. She was 11 years old in the 1880 census of Oak City. She died possibly of diphtheria by 1882. (*Oak City LDS Member Rec, FHL Film 026,313.*)
2. **Amy Morrison**, born about 1875. She was five years old in the 1880 census of Oak City. She died possibly of diphtheria in 1882.
3. **George Morrison**, born about 1877. He was three years old in the 1880 census of Oak City. He died possibly of diphtheria in 1882.
4. **Eliza Morrison**, born 30 April 1879, died before 1880.
5. **Isabell Jane Morrison**, born 29 June 1872 in Oak City and died before 1880.\*

\*Isabell and Nettie are mentioned in the book compiled by Margaret Roper, *Echoes of the Sage and Cedars: A Centennial History of Oak City, Utah, 1868-1969*, pages 400, 401.

## Chapter 10

### Priscilla Morgan and John Franklin Radford

**Priscilla Morgan**, the fifth child of Thomas and Ann Watkins Morgan, was born 25 August 1854,\* in Much Cowarne, Herefordshire, England, and died 4 March 1926 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She married first 24 July 1871 in Oak City, Millard, Utah, to **John Franklin Radford**, born 10 December 1850 in Provo, Utah, son of John Whitlock Radford and Leah Smith (Figure 41). John died 4 March 1889 in Vale, Malheur, Oregon. Priscilla married second **Isaac Chase**, born 21 July 1851 in Centerville, Davis, Utah, son of Isaac Chase and Elizabeth Calvert. Isaac died 19 March 1922 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. Priscilla had no children with Isaac. He had a family with his previous wife.

Priscilla was born in August of 1854, so when her family sailed for America in February 1855, Priscilla was about six months old. Her first childhood memories likely were when her family was pioneering the community of Goshen, Utah, between 1857 and 1866. As a preteen and teenage girl, she would have experienced the hardships of living in crude dugouts and temporary cabins, as her family pioneered not only in Goshen but also the Millard County, Utah, communities of Deseret from 1865 to 1868 and Oak City between 1869 and 1872.

During the tough pioneering days in Deseret in Millard County, Priscilla Morgan's father and family became close friends and associates with the John Whitlock Radford and Leah Smith Radford family. Three members of that family were to eventually marry into the Morgan family.

When Priscilla married John Franklin (Frank) Radford, she was the first Morgan family member to marry a member of the John Whitlock and Leah Radford family. At that time Priscilla was nearly 17 years old and her husband was 20. Less than two months later Priscilla's father, Thomas Morgan, married Nancy Jane Radford as a plural wife. Nancy was the oldest child in this Radford family and a sister of Priscilla's husband. In 1878, Priscilla's youngest sister Everal Hannah married Daniel H Radford, a younger brother of Priscilla's husband. Many years later two Radford grandchildren of Priscilla also married two Morgan sisters who were grandchildren of Nancy Jane Radford, as will be shown later.

As a married couple Priscilla and John Franklin Radford first lived in Oak City, Utah, where their first child was born, but after a year or so they moved to Leamington, Millard, Utah, along with other members of the Morgan family, and where they remained until about 1888. Their four other children were born in Leamington.

In about 1888 they moved to Vale, Malheur, Oregon, a farming community not far from the Idaho border. What prompted them to move there at that time has not been determined. Vale, Oregon, attracted many LDS farm families from Utah during the 1880s.



**Figure 41. John Franklin Radford (1850-1889), Priscilla Morgan Radford (1854-1926), child John William Radford (1872-1949).** Taken about 1873.

But tragedy struck the family with the death of John Franklin Radford on 11 March 1891 in Vale, Oregon. The circumstances of his death are not known.

Later in 1891, Priscilla, then a widow, decided to take her remaining three young sons and move to Idaho. Her other two children had died while living in Leamington. According to her son John's obituary, Priscilla first moved to Neeley, near American Falls, Idaho, presumably to be near her brother William Morgan's family. But after spending the winter



there, she moved to what is now the Ririe area of Idaho, where her parents and most of her siblings were settling that same year. Her mother Ann died in Poplar, near present Ririe, Idaho, in 1895.

A few years later, probably by the mid 1890s, Priscilla married Isaac Chase and with him and her family she settled on a farm in the Rudy tract near present Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She remained with Isaac until his death in 1922, but she had no children with him. Isaac was a widower with a young family. His former wife, Samantha Jane Gardner, died in 1892, leaving him with five small children. After their marriage Priscilla and Isaac combined their families under one roof. The 1900 census of Rudy Precinct, Fremont, Idaho, shows Isaac's children, George, Lydia, and John Chase, still at home with Isaac and Priscilla and two of her sons, John and James Radford. They were also neighbors of her younger sister Everal and Daniel Radford and their seven children. They lived near some of the Lovell family who were children of her first husband's sister, Leah Radford Lovell.

In about 1913 Priscilla became the primary caregiver to her father, Thomas Morgan, when he came to live with her and Isaac before his death in 1915.

Priscilla died in Ririe on 4 March 1926 at the age of 72.\* At the time of her death she was survived by her three sons living near her and by four of her stepchildren. She was also survived by four full siblings, four half siblings, and five grandchildren.

*\*Priscilla's birth year is entered incorrectly as 1850 in the Ancestral File. The 1859 LDS Membership records of Goshen, Utah, list Priscilla's birth as 1854 as does the Perpetual Emigration Fund records kept in England prior to the Morgan family boarding the ship Siddons. Priscilla is not listed in the 1851 British census, indicating she had not yet been born.*

The children of **Priscilla Morgan and John Franklin Radford** (Figure 42) were as follows:

1. John William Radford, 1872
  2. Edward Thomas Radford, 1873
  3. Sarah Ann Radford, 1876 (died young)
  4. Franklin Radford, 1878 (died young)
  5. James Richard Radford, 1880
1. **John William Radford**, the first child of Priscilla Morgan and John Franklin Radford, was born 22 March 1872 in Oak City, Millard, Utah, and died 21 January 1949 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 11 December 1900 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Julia Elizabeth Ross**, born 14 January 1883 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, daughter of Melvin Ross and Mary Ellen Hadden. Julia died in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, on 18 January 1967.  
According to John's obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, January 24, 1949:  
At the age of 10 his family moved to Vale, Malheur, Oregon, where they lived for three years. His father died, and then his mother and two younger brothers came to American Falls where they spent the winter.

The following spring they moved to Rudy, now known as Ririe, where they homesteaded a farm. In December of 1900 he was married to Julia Elizabeth Ross and they spent a year in Lost River, [Custer], Idaho, where he worked in a mine. In 1908 he homesteaded a dry farm on Birch Creek and farmed there until 1922.



**Figure 42. Priscilla Morgan and Frank Radford family.** Back row, left to right: Edward Thomas Radford (1873-1942), Priscilla Morgan Radford (1854-1926). Front, L-R: John William Radford (1872-1949), James Richard Radford (1880-1909), John Franklin Radford (1850-1889). Taken about 1885 or 1886.



He farmed north of Ririe until 1943 when his health started failing. He then purchased a home in Ririe where he lived until his death. He is survived by one daughter, Sadie Durrant, of Blackfoot, and his widow.

**John and Julia Radford's** child was (Figure 43):

- a. *Sadie Geneva Radford*, born 13 November 1898 in Shelley, Bingham, Idaho, and died 5 July 1968 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 12 April 1916 to John Roland Durrant, born 20 July 1897 in Lyman, Uinta, Wyoming, son of Theodore John Durrant and Eliza Adelgunda Heiner. He died 20 July 1979 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. They had one daughter.



**Figure 43. John William Radford and Julia Elizabeth Ross Radford family.** John William Radford (1872-1949), Sadie Geneva Radford Durrant (1898-1968), Julia Elizabeth Ross Radford (1883-1967).

2. **Edward Thomas Radford**, second child of Priscilla Morgan and John F. Radford, was born 6 October 1873 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 20 December 1942 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 24 November 1898 in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Wealtha Permilla (Pearl) Wilbur**, daughter of Stephen King Wilbur and Susan Augusta Byington. She was born 20 November 1880 in Nine Mile, Oneida, Idaho, and died 12 January 1919 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. Both are buried in Annis, Jefferson, Idaho.



**Figure 44. Edward and Pearl Radford family.** Left to right: James LeRoy Radford (1901-1973), Wealththa Permilla (Pearl) Wilbur Radford (1880-1919), Ako Oren Radford (1910-1977), Edward Thomas Radford (1873-1942), Franklin King Radford (1904-1940).

**Edward and Wealththa (Pearl) Radford's children are:**

- a. *Edward Narvail Radford*, born 19 November 1899 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, and died in April 1900 in Rudy.
- b. *James LeRoy Radford* (Roy) was born 5 August 1901 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 13 March 1973 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married first 5 October 1922 to Ida May Morgan, daughter of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg, with whom he had a family (see Ida May Morgan, daughter of John Thomas Morgan). After Ida's death on 20 July 1941, he married second 8 November 1941 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, to his widowed sister-in-law, Elzina Pearl Tyler (Radford), who was formerly married to Franklin King Radford. She was born 30 May 1907 in Ucon, Bonneville, Idaho, the daughter of Daniel Tyler and Matilda Christina Petersen. She died 24 September 1982 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. LeRoy had a child with Elzina Pearl.
- c. *Franklin King Radford*, born 6 June 1904 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 5 September 1940 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 30



September 1926 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Elzina Pearl Tyler, who was born 30 May 1907 in Ucon, Bonneville, Idaho, daughter of Daniel Tyler and Matilda Christina Petersen. After her husband (Franklin King Radford) died, she married her brother-in-law, James LeRoy Radford, after his first wife (Ida May Morgan) died. Elzina Pearl died 24 September 1982 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

- d. *Ako Oren Radford*, born 12 October 1910 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, and died on 20 September 1977 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 8 June 1936 in Lehi, Utah, to Cleo Annie Morgan, daughter of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg. She was born 10 October 1911 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died November 1982 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho (see also Cleo Annie Morgan, daughter of John Thomas Morgan).
3. **Sarah Ann Radford**, born 12 March 1876 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 21 March 1878 in Leamington.
4. **Franklin Radford**, born 4 February 1878 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 11 November 1881 in Leamington.
5. **James Richard Radford**, fifth child of Priscilla Morgan and John Franklin Radford, was born 29 March 1880 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 6 May 1909 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho. He married **Annie M. Mower** on 26 September 1905 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho. She was born 10 October 1884 near present American Falls, Power, Idaho, the daughter of George Henry Mower and Elizabeth Workman. Annie died 20 August 1912 in American Falls, Power, Idaho.

**James and Annie Radford's** child was:

- a. *Charles Isaac Radford*, born 17 July 1906 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 15 March 1971 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho. He married 17 October 1928 in Dubois, Clark, Idaho, to Abby Hall, who was born 1 December 1908 in Dubois, Clark, Idaho, daughter of William Nephi Hall and Hannah Permelia Packard. Abby died 29 January 1974 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho.

Written on back of the picture: Taken at Aunt Priss's place just before Ike Chase Died. Taken in Winter. Probably about 1916-1918.



Figure 45. Members of the Thomas Morgan extended family, 1916-1918. AWM, child of Ann Watkins Morgan. NJR, child of Nancy Jane Radford.



## Chapter 11

### William Thomas Morgan and Sarah Lovina Ross

**William Thomas Morgan**, sixth child of Thomas Morgan and Ann Watkins, was born 26 December 1856 in Kaysville, Davis, Utah, and died 10 February 1946 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married **Sarah Lovina Ross**, born 27 March 1862 in Fillmore, Millard, Utah, and died 19 January 1919 in Neeley, Power, Idaho. She was the daughter of Melvin Ross and Julia Elizabeth Smith (Figures 46, 47, 48, 49).

William married second 15 May 1928 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Ruth Dennis Wilbur** (Morgan), born 23 June 1876 in Eden, Weber, Utah, daughter of Susan Augusta Byington and Steven King Wilbur. She was the former wife of James John Morgan, deceased brother of William. This marriage lasted only for a short time. Ruth died 19 October 1954 in Menan, Jefferson, Idaho.

*Extracted mainly from William Morgan's story told to his daughter, La Dera Morgan Greenland, in 1941.*

William was the first of the Morgan family to be born in America. He was just an infant when his family pioneered the area that is now Goshen, Utah, and a child when they pioneered the area of Deseret and Oak City in Millard County, Utah. In his own story, William recalled memories of the Black Hawk Indian threats to his family and neighbors, which occurred during the mid 1860s and is discussed in Part 1, page 25.

As a youth William lived on the family farm in Leamington, Millard, Utah. But he apparently worked for a time in Salt Lake County for an LDS church-owned co-op that managed herds of horses and cattle. And as a young adult he spent quite a lot of time herding community-owned cattle. In the spring the cattle were taken out on the rangelands some distance from Oak City and Leamington. In the fall they were herded onto the higher slopes of the Sevier River canyons east of Leamington.

When he was about 24 years old, he took an interest in a young woman of Leamington who had been dealt some bad luck. She had lost her mother in a wagon accident in 1878, and the man identified as her first husband (John Holden) had died the day she bore her first baby in 1879. Her name was **Sarah Lovina Ross Holden** (aka Lovina). Lovina was born 27 March 1862 in Fillmore, Millard, Utah, the daughter of Melvin Ross and Julia Elizabeth Smith. Since no documents have been found proving Lovina's first marriage to John Holden, there have been lingering questions in the family as to whether Lovina was legally married to John Holden and whether John Holden was the father of her baby Sarah Jane. Family descendants today are disappointed that they have not been able to learn anything certain about John Holden.



**Figure 46.** Left to right: Sarah Lovina Ross (Holden) Morgan (1862-1919), holding baby Clifton Morgan (1889-1988), James Melvin Ross (1869-1937), William Thomas Morgan (1856-1946).

William and Lovina were married in Leamington 16 February 1880. Lovina's baby Sarah Jane was adopted by William and was reared in their family as their oldest child.

Not long after their marriage, the young couple made a major decision to move to totally unsettled land near the Snake River in southern Idaho.



William said:

In the spring [of 1881] we came out in buggies to explore the country [now Neeley, Idaho]. We went back and gathered our things and fixed everything to move out. We moved from Millard County [Utah] on the Sevier River in the fall. I moved out with my family. Others in the company were [the families of] Melvin Ross [Lovina's parents], Ted (Edward) Morgan, and Jim [James John] Morgan [William's brothers] and Willard Moore [William's brother-in-law].



**Figure 47. William and Lovina Morgan family.** Back row, left to right: George William Morgan (1881-1964), Julia Ann Morgan (1883-1957). Front, L-R: Clifton Morgan (1889-1988), Sarah Lovina Ross (Holden) Morgan (1862-1919), Ada Melissa Morgan (1886-1968), William Thomas Morgan (1856-1946). Taken 1893-1894.



**Figure 48. William and Lovina Morgan family.** Back row, standing, left to right: Golden (Jack) Morgan (1902-1983), Julia Ann Morgan (1883-1957), Alvin Elmer Morgan (1899-1970). Middle row, L-R: Sarah Lovina Ross Morgan (1862-1919), Kenneth Morgan (1905-1969), William Thomas Morgan (1856-1946). Sitting front: Lovina Orlean Morgan (1907-1997).





**Figure 49. Melvin Ross, his second wife Mary Ellen Hadden (MEH) and children from both of his marriages.** Melvin married **Julia Elizabeth Smith (JES)** in 1862. Julia died in 1878. Melvin married Mary Ellen Hadden in 1879. Back row, L-R: Francis Marion (Joe) Ross (JES) (1865-1949), Don Carlos Ross (JES) (1867-1918), James Melvin Ross (JES) (1869-1936). Middle row, L-R: Silas Asahel Ross (JES) (1875-1896), Melvin Ross (1842-1920), Mary Ellen Hadden Ross (1861-1925). Front row, L-R: Ellen (Effie) Ross (MEH) (1880-1954), Mary Esther (Mame) Ross (JES) (1873-1950), Julia Elizabeth Ross (MEH) (1883-1967).

Melvin Ross was very much a part of the Thomas Morgan/John Whitlock Radford families. His mother, Leah Smith, married John Whitlock Radford after her first husband, Andrew Jackson Ross, died. His oldest daughter, Sarah Lovina Ross (not in the picture), married William Thomas Morgan. Melvin's daughter Delora Ross (not in picture) married Robert Morgan, Thomas Morgan's grandson. Melvin's daughter Julia Elizabeth married John William Radford, a grandson of John Whitlock Radford and Thomas Morgan. Melvin's son Andrew Jackson Ross married Maud Ella Radford, granddaughter of John Whitlock Radford and Thomas Morgan.

When we drove up late that first night we camped on the bank of Warm Creek [near the Snake River] and when we woke up the next morning there was snow about a foot deep on the ground. We didn't have any shelter except the covered wagons. We called a meeting and each one of us made dugouts for homes for our families. It had been a long trip moving from Leamington, Utah, to Neeley, Idaho. We left there late in October and had bad weather and lost a lot of stock on the way. About a month after we arrived in Neeley, a baby was born to us. This baby was George William Morgan, born 24 December 1881, the first child born in Neeley.

That winter we lost nearly everything we had. I left Leamington with 28 head of cattle. And we had only one left in the spring. Jim lost one child, Ted lost two, and Willard lost one. They all died of diphtheria. There was no lumber so we pulled a wagon box out of the river and made coffins for them. Their clothes were made principally out of sheets.

During the wintertime we went up to the railroad camp and gathered up their potato peelings for seed potatoes. They were building the bridge at the time. That winter we were employed by the railroad company to haul timber.

We started having church about the next winter after we arrived in Neeley.... We held our first Sunday school in the dugout. Sarah West Morgan was put in charge. She was a good singer and had a good education. Brother Lorenzo Snow came out [from Salt Lake City] and helped to organize our branch of the church.

La Dera writes:

William Morgan filed on a homestead of 160 acres of land, built a house and started farming. They had to clear the sagebrush off the land and plow it with a hand plow. They sowed grain by hand and cut it with a 'dropper.' They cut wild grass for hay with scythes. Mr. Morgan did the first threshing that was done in the little settlement. They cleaned a big place on the ground and then tramped the grain out with horses, and cleaned it when the wind was blowing. They lived in Neeley 38 years. During that time they acquired more land, and 11 more children were born to them.

As the children grew to adulthood William deeded land to seven of his children, most of whom remained in Neeley where they raised families. Indeed, the town of Neeley and the farmlands nearby became one of several important home communities of the descendants of William and Lovina Morgan and is still a meeting place for Morgan family reunions (Figure 50).

La Dera Greenland continues:

It was on January 19, 1919, that Lovina felt upset to her stomach, so she took some Epsom salts to settle her stomach. Within minutes the stomach pains increased and the pain was unbearable. Before they could summon a doctor Lovina died a horrible and agonizing death. The can of Epsom salts was later analyzed and strychnine was found in the bottom of the can.





**Figure 50. The William and Lovina Morgan home in Neeley, Idaho.** William Morgan, wearing a dark vest and black hat, is standing left of center. Lovina Ross Morgan is standing in the doorway on the porch. Daughter-in-law Velma Allen Morgan (wife of Dick Morgan) is standing just off the porch at center. This picture was taken shortly before the death of Lovina Morgan in 1919.

The next June, William packed his belongings and three small children and started on the long journey from Neeley to Rigby, Idaho. It took two wagons to move their belongings. He bought a farm in Rigby, Idaho, and settled down to farming and raising his three remaining children.

About nine years after Lovina's death, William married for the second time. He married Ruth Wilbur Morgan, his brother's widow, as stated above, and the daughter of Susan Byington Wilbur Morgan, who had married Thomas Morgan in his later years. This marriage lasted only a short time.

At the age of 84, William decided he was too old to continue farming so he sold his farm and went to live in a small trailer next to his daughter Orlean Nield's home east of Idaho Falls, Idaho. He died after living a long and fruitful life on February 10, 1946, at the age of nearly 90.

The children of **William Morgan and Lovina Ross Morgan** were as follows:

1. Sarah Jane Holden Morgan, 1879
2. George William Morgan, 1881
3. Julia Ann Morgan, 1883
4. Ada Melissa Morgan, 1886
5. Clifton (Dick) Morgan, 1889
6. Clara Morgan, 1891 (died young)
7. Melvin Morgan, 1893 (died young)
8. Silas Asahel Morgan, 1896 (died young)
9. Marvin Lee Morgan, 1897

- 10. Alvin Elmer Morgan, 1899
- 11. Golden (Jack) Morgan, 1903
- 12. Kenneth Morgan, 1904
- 13. Lovina Orlean Morgan, 1907

1. **Sarah Jane Holden Morgan** (aka Jane) was born 21 June 1879, the daughter of Sarah Lovina Ross and probably John Holden. Sarah Jane's mother, Lovina, according to oral history, was briefly married to John Holden before she married William Morgan, but Mr. Holden died (it was said) from poison about the time of Sarah Jane's birth or before. Since no documents have been found proving Lovina's marriage to John Holden, the descendants of Sarah Jane remain uncertain whether her father was John Holden or William Morgan. Sarah Jane was reared in the William and Lovina family, and according to Mormon tradition, Sarah Jane was sealed to and officially adopted by William Morgan. She grew up in Neeley, Idaho, as the oldest child in the William and Lovina Morgan family.

*Extracted from a life sketch by descendant Dorothy Madsen.*

Jane married **John Millard Charlesworth** (Figure 51) on 6 April 1901 in Neeley, Idaho. He was born 1 February 1878 in Kanosh, Millard, Utah, the son of John Carlos Charlesworth and Mary Ann Ferguson. John had previously been married and had a daughter, Maybell, by his first wife.

Sarah Jane and her husband settled in Neeley, Idaho, for the first few years of their marriage. In May of 1914, after all their children were born, they obtained official title to a homestead in the area near Neeley called Sunbeam. They worked hard on their homestead and built a log home and buildings on their farm.

In about 1915 while on a trip to American Falls with William Morgan, John Charlesworth was hit by a train which cut all the toes but the big one off one foot. He was sent to Salt Lake City for medical care. Family members say that this accident changed John, that he was never the same after the accident. In April of 1915 John "got into trouble with the law" and deserted the area and his family. He was never heard from again. Jane got a legal divorce from him on 17 January 1918.

Though Jane had some help on the farm from her brothers, after about three years she gave up farming in the Neeley area and moved to Ririe, Idaho, where she bought a farm. She lost that farm when she could not make the payments.

In May of 1925 Jane moved her family to Idaho Falls, Idaho. She worked at various jobs to support her family. She found seasonal work sorting peas at the Rogers Seed Company, a facility which prepared peas and other seeds for the seed market. Her children, in writing about their mother, talk about her life as being very difficult, raising a family without a husband during the



Depression years, as she had little means of making a living and only meager welfare assistance from the government after 1933.

On October 17, 1944, Sarah Jane was living in an apartment [in Idaho Falls] above Wally's Grocery store. She went downstairs to the grocery and came back up the steep flight of stairs to her apartment. She sat down to get her breath and quietly passed away. Her daughter-in-law found her sitting on the old sofa with a bag of groceries on her lap."

Sarah Jane died 17 October 1944 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. John Charlesworth, long absent from the family, died in 1960 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho.



**Figure 51. The Charlesworth family.** Left to right, Maybelle Charlesworth (1897-1974), (John Charlesworth's daughter from a previous marriage), John Millard Charlesworth (1878-1960), Selma June Charlesworth (1905-1938), John William Charlesworth (1902-1983), Sarah Jane Holden Morgan Charlesworth (1879-1944). Child, front center, Glen Charlesworth (1906-1978).

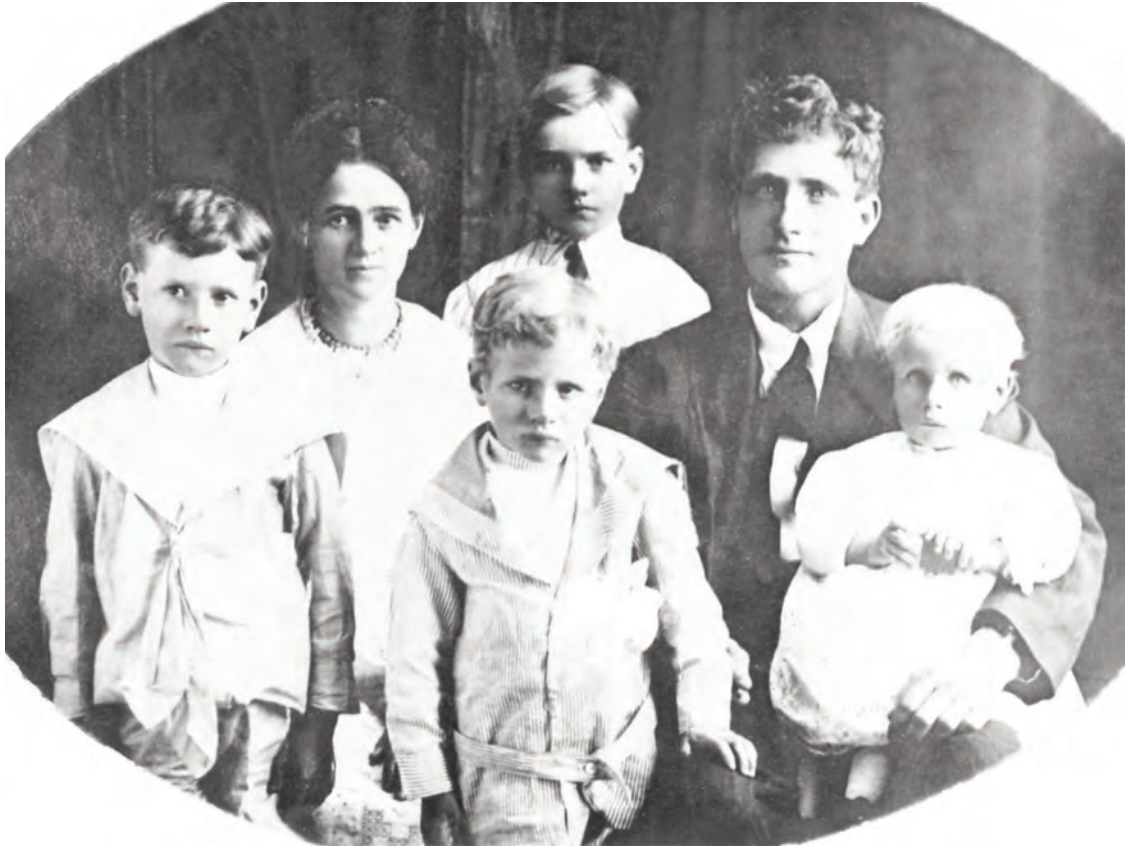
The children of **Sarah Jane and John Charlesworth** were as follows, according family records (*provided by Vada Burden, Dorothy Madsen, Eastern Idaho Obituaries and SS Death Index*):

- a. *John (Jack) William Charlesworth* was born 10 September 1902 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 12 February 1983 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 11 October 1924 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, to Eva Eliza Stoddard, born 1 October 1904 in Taylor, Bonneville, Idaho, daughter of John W. Stoddard and May Josephine Wadsworth.
  - b. *Selma June Charlesworth*, born 9 June 1905 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and was killed 5 September 1938 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, when the car she was driving was hit by a train while crossing a railroad track. She married 3 November 1924 to Frank LeRoy Nield, born 11 February 1900 in Afton, Lincoln, Wyoming, son of Thomas Nield and Eleanor Bassett. Selma left a family of two boys and a girl behind with her husband. He married second Myrtle Covert 20 June 1939 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. *Frank Nield's obituary is in the Idaho Falls Post Register 16 August 1970.*
  - c. *Glen Charlesworth* (aka Chick) was born 30 September 1906 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 1 March 1978 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Idaho. He married Katie Godfrey.
  - d. *Florence Charlesworth*, born 31 July 1910 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died of pneumonia 5 January 1912 in Neeley, Power, Idaho.
  - e. *Lyle Millard Charlesworth*, born 29 December 1912 and died 18 April 1983 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 30 December 1933 in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho, to Violet Hannah Reeves, born 16 October 1910 in Salt lake City, Utah, daughter of Eli Moses Reeves and Bodil Johanne Olsen. She died 16 October 1986 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
  - f. *Wayne Charlesworth*, born 15 October 1914 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 12 February 1947 from a car accident in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 30 October 1939 in Idaho Falls to Ida Bernice Fisher, born 2 April 1917 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 12 April 1945 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
2. **George William Morgan**, the second child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross, born 24 December 1881 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 22 March 1964 in Salmon, Lemhi, Idaho. According to the book *History of the Neeley Ward* by Norma C. Weber, George W. Morgan was the first child born in Neeley, the newly founded community near present American Falls, Idaho. He grew up in Neeley. On 24 April 1901 he married in Logan, Cache, Utah, to **Emily Alice Baugh** (Figure 52), born in Sterling, Cache, Utah, 23 July 1881, the daughter of Briar Baugh and Mary Ann Anderson. She died 11 August 1929 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho.

*The following was extracted from George Morgan's life sketch written by Lon Morgan.*

Little is known of G. W. Morgan's childhood years except that they were spent in the Neeley area on the family farm. As a 19-year-old, G. W. met





**Figure 52. George William Morgan and Emily Alice Baugh Morgan family.** Back row, left to right: William LeRoy Morgan (1904-1981), Emily Alice Baugh Morgan (1881-1929), Leon Baugh Morgan (1902-1971), George William Morgan (1881-1964). Front row, left to right: Kyrel Baugh Morgan (1906-1985), Elmer Vaughn Morgan (1910-1994).

Emily Baugh from Logan, Utah. Emily had traveled to Neeley to visit her sister Mattie Stanger and there she met George. George and Emily were married in the Logan, Utah, LDS temple on April 24, 1901.

At first the newlywed couple lived in Neeley. Later they moved onto leased land on the nearby Indian reservation. After perhaps two years living on the reservation raising grain, they moved to Fork in the Creek several miles up Sunbeam Creek where they lived in a tarpaper shack. From there they moved to a small farm in Rockland, Idaho.

Around 1927 they moved from Rockland to The Gardens, located below the former Fork in the Creek place. The Gardens was a small wooded area in a ravine next to Sunbeam Creek and was well suited to gardening. There G.W. could engage in his favorite activity—gardens, which provided the means to support their family. G.W. raised a variety of vegetables, including melons and squash. He was noted for the strawberries and raspberries he grew. The gardens were supplemented with flocks of chickens, with the eggs being sold for 10 cents a dozen.

It was while living at The Gardens that his wife Emily contracted cancer. Her granddaughter La Dera Greenland remembers that Emily was taken to a hospital in July in Soda Springs, Idaho, for cancer surgery. Emily was released to her home and died less than a month later. Despite this surgery and other treatments, Emily passed away on August 11, 1929.

By this time George's oldest son Leon was married. Roy (William LeRoy) had a job herding sheep from which he was able to send money to help. George continued to raise the younger children and remained at The Gardens until the late 1930s. G.W. became chairman of the school board of a school called the Sunbeam Country School, which granddaughter La Dera remembers fondly and wrote of her many memories there.

Around 1939 or 40 George moved his remaining family to Michaud, a farming settlement west of Pocatello, Idaho, near the present airport. About 1942 George again moved his family, this time to the former Dawson Ranch near Baker, Lemhi, Idaho. The ranch consisted of some 545 acres, split into two sections. Here they raised hay and cattle and dealt with innumerable rattlesnakes. For a short period his son Leon and family lived on a ranch between the two sections of the Dawson Ranch.

The basic ranch house was later remodeled with indoor plumbing, to which G.W. could never quite accommodate. He still preferred the outdoor privy. While using the outdoor facilities in February 1964, he slipped on the ice and fell, sustaining a severe concussion. He was admitted to the local hospital in Salmon, where he died on March 22, 1964. He was later buried in the Neeley, Idaho, cemetery.

Grandpa George William Morgan was known to neighbors and friends as 'GW' or Dad Morgan and to siblings as Will. He was tall and slender and carried himself with a quiet, peaceful demeanor. His meals were basic and memorable, often including fried potatoes, baking powder biscuits, and beans. No one can remember him raising his voice in anger. His was a life of hard work, dedication to family, love of children, and the strength of basic values. He was a man true to his word.

**George and Emily Baugh Morgan's** family are (*from records of Theo Morgan, La Dera Greenland, East Idaho Obituaries, and SS Death Index*):

- a. *Leon Baugh Morgan*, born 16 April 1902 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 16 August 1971 in Nampa, Canyon, Idaho. He married Mamie Dell Richardson on 28 September 1921 in the Logan, Utah, LDS temple. She was born 28 December 1901 in Fairview, Lincoln, Wyoming, daughter of Levi Asa Richardson and Polly Erminnie Child. They had a family in and near American Falls, Power, Idaho. She died 6 January 2002 in Boise, Ada, Idaho.
- b. *William LeRoy (Roy) Morgan* was born 24 April 1904 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 23 July 1981 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. He never married.
- c. *Kyrel (Pete) Morgan* born 29 July 1906 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 10 September 1985 in Middleton, Canyon, Idaho. He married 19 May

1928 to Velma May Lee, born 14 October 1911 and died 22 September 1981 in Caldwell, Canyon, Idaho.

- d. *Elmer Vaughn Morgan* (aka Vaughn), born 14 November 1910 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 1 October 1994 in American Falls, Power, Idaho. He married 15 September 1929 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, to Ilah Fifield, born 11 January 1913 in Rockland, Power, Idaho, daughter of William P. Fifield and Amorette Allen. Ilah died 23 November 2001 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho. They lived in American Falls and Rockland, Idaho (see life sketch in the book *Rockland Valley 1879-1979*, page 542).
  - e. *Francis Merle Morgan* (twin), born 30 December 1916 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 27 February 2003 in Emmett, Gem, Idaho. He married Billie Dean Adams 10 August 1950, born about 1927 probably in Palisade, Bonneville, Idaho (1930 census).
  - f. *Chester Earl Morgan* (twin), born 30 December 1916 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 16 February 1999 in Valley County, Idaho. He married 2 December 1947 Verna Alleene Montague, daughter of Glenn Montague and Ada Verna Radford.
  - g. *Wilma Blanche Morgan*, born 24 November 1921 at American Falls, Power, Idaho. She married Robert Grounds 29 November 1945.
3. **Julia Ann Morgan**, the third child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross was born 11 January 1883 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 28 January 1957. She married 12 June 1913 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, to **Rasmus M. Hansen** (Figure 53). He was born 5 December 1882 in Smithfield, Cache, Utah, the son of Rasmus Hansen and Anna Guanalda Jensen. Rasmus (Rast) died 11 September 1960 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. During the 1930 census Julia and Rast lived in Meridian, Ada, Idaho. They made their home in Meridian until their deaths.

**Julia and Rast Hansen's children are:**

- a. *Ila Fern Hansen*, born 4 December 1914 in American Fall, Idaho, and died 26 November 2003 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. She married Lester E. Nowland in 1932 and settled in Meridian, Ada, Idaho, where they had a family. Lester was born 26 January 1910 in Dingle, Bear Lake, Idaho, and died 29 November 1979. He was the son of Henry George Nowland and Jane Loella Davis.
- b. *Lovina Guanalda Hansen*, born 10 April 1917 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died in 1946. She married Ralph Kindall.
- c. *Helen Hansen*, born 6 July 1919 in American Falls, Power, Idaho. She first married Kenneth Moran and second Mr. Prescott.
- d. *Melvin R. Hansen*, born in 1921 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died in 1968 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. He married Dorothy Mae Spence in Boise, Ada, Idaho, in 1947. Dorothy was born 10 February 1925 in Cody, Park, Wyoming, daughter of Owen R. Spence and Alta E. Spence. She died 20 February 2004 in Boise, Ada, Idaho.





**Figure 53.** Julia Ann Morgan Hansen (1883-1957) and Rasmus M. Hansen (1882-1960). Wedding photo, 1913.

4. **Ada Melissa Morgan**, the fourth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross was born 28 June 1886 in Neeley, Power, Idaho. She died 16 March 1968 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. On 7 March 1906 Ada married her cousin **Daniel H. Radford** in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho (Figure 54), born 1881. He was the son of Daniel H Radford and Everal Hannah Morgan (William's younger sister). He died 29 May 1951 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. (See also under Daniel H Radford.)

Ada's obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register* on 18 March 1968 states that she was born in a homesteader's dugout and attended school in Neeley, Idaho. She and her husband farmed near Pocatello for many years and moved to Black Canyon north of Ririe, Idaho, to operate a sawmill.



**Figure 54. Daniel and Ada Morgan Radford family.** Back row, Ada Melissa Morgan Radford (1886-1968). Front row, Ada Verna Radford (1909-1987), Daniel H (Dee) Radford (1881-1951), Rulon Daniel Radford (1907-1953).



*Extracted from Ada's link on the <http://macsheep.tripod.com/Morgan/> Web site.*

Ada met Daniel (Dee) Radford one day when he came from his home at Rudy, now known as Ririe. His family ran a sawmill in the mountains above Rudy. He spent three years courting Ada. They were married on the 6th of March, 1906, in Pocatello, Idaho. They lived at Rudy until shortly before their first baby was born. Dee took Ada to be with her mother when the baby was born on April 2, 1907. They called him Rulon. The little family then stayed in Neeley near American Falls, Idaho, and homesteaded a dry farm there. After they had proved up on the dry farm they moved back to Ririe. A daughter Verna was born while they were living on their homestead in Neeley. When they moved back to Rudy they bought eighty acres of land and built a new home. [While in Rudy] another daughter was born to them called Bernice and also a son Don. Ada became a Relief Society teacher and secretary of the Relief Society of the Perry Ward near Ririe. They helped build a new church house on which they all labored. It was built of rock from the nearby hills.

In 1925 the family moved to the Osgood, Idaho, area to grow crops for the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. They worked extremely hard on this farm, raising sugar beets, potatoes, grain, and hay. Most of the work was done by hand or with the machinery available in those days, which meant that they worked from sunrise to sunset, and then Dee would have to go out in the fields during the night to change the irrigation water.

They hauled wood for the winter all the way from Kelly's Canyon above Ririe with a team and wagon, taking three or four days to make each trip. They would meet Ada's brother Dick (Clifton Morgan) and his family up there and help each other get out the wood. Her brother Al (Alvin Morgan) and his family lived near them in Osgood and they would usually take turns doing chores while the others went after wood. These outings were a lot of work but also a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed them. The first thing Dee would do each time they started to make a camp was get out and beat the brush and surrounding ground to see if any rattlesnakes were there. The women would cook the meals on the campfire and watch the children while the men cut wood. Fishing was never neglected and they always had several meals of pan-fried trout fresh from the stream. After the wood was all cut and loaded came the exciting and scary ride down out of the canyon with the big loads of poles.

Ada was a work director for the Relief Society in Osgood, and she received recognition for 50 years of teaching in the Relief Society. She cooked for the Osgood school children with Mrs. Piper for seven years. In 1938 they bought another farm in the Osgood area and built a home there, and their son Rulon and Leona bought one adjoining them. Dee's health was failing by this time and he lived only a short time after they got their house built. Rulon passed away suddenly from a heart attack in 1953, leaving Leona and 11 children.



Before Dee died, they fulfilled a goodwill mission to LDS temples in Logan, St. George, Salt Lake City, Manti, and in Mesa, Arizona. They also completed a work mission on the Idaho Falls Temple when it was being built. After Dee's passing, Ada sold the farm and bought a little house in Idaho Falls. While living there, she continued her work in the Relief Society. She was a very talented seamstress, quiltmaker, and was also known for her cake decorating. Her cakes and quilts earned many dollars for the building projects of the LDS wards she lived in. She designed many of her quilts herself, and they have become family heirlooms.

When Ada died, she had 21 grandchildren, 62 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Prior to her death she was hospitalized several times. She always had an independent spirit, and it was very hard for her to ask anyone for help. She painted the outside of her house when she was past 80 years old. She was a very hospitable lady and she loved little children. She loved flowers and always had them growing all around her yard. She was much loved by her neighbors, friends, and relatives.

**Ada and Daniel Radford's** children are (see also under Daniel H. Radford) (*from Ada Morgan Radford records*):

- a. *Rulon Daniel Radford*, born 3 April 1907 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 5 June 1953 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 28 January 1926 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Laura Leona Staggie, who was born 21 April 1908 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. Leona died 28 May 1995 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon.
  - b. *Ada Verna Radford*, born 2 December 1909 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died in June 1987 in Caldwell, Canyon, Idaho. She married 22 December 1927 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, to Glenn Montague, who was born 22 April 1904 in Woodville, Bingham, Idaho, son of James A. Montague and Susan L. Jones. Glenn died 12 July 1964 in Idaho. They had five children, one of whom, Verna Alleen, married Chester Earl Morgan, one of George William Morgan's twin sons.
  - c. *Lovina Bernice Radford*, born 29 August 1920 in Perry (now Ririe), Jefferson, Idaho, and died 31 October 1959 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 19 January 1940 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, to Sylner Bergeman.
  - d. *Don William Radford*, born 13 May 1923 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 24 April 1998 in Emmett, Gem, Idaho. He married 9 November 1944 to Helen Elizabeth Simpson, who was born about 1926, daughter of Weston Simpson and Gladys.
5. **Clifton (Dick) Morgan**, the fifth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross, was born 2 February 1889 in Neeley, Idaho, and died 4 March 1988 at the age of 99 in Ammon, Bonneville, Idaho. He married first 28 December 1910 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, to **Cecil Velma Allen** (Figure 55), born 9 January 1894 in Rockland, Power, Idaho, and died 21 February 1973 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho.

She was the daughter of Jude Welton Allen and Betsy Ann Osterhout. Clifton married second 10 August 1974 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, to Maude Mae McClain (Beck), born 11 February 1901 in Salt Lick, Bath, Kentucky, and died 12 February 1986 in Milford, Oakland, Michigan.

Clifton grew up on the family farm in Neeley and attended schools in Neeley. He helped build the American Falls Dam and the first railroad depot in American Falls and dry-farmed in the American Falls area.

He later moved to Montana, where he farmed for a few years until he bought a farm near Shelton, Jefferson, Idaho. They later moved to Shelley, Bingham, Idaho (*obituary 6 March 1988 in Idaho Falls Post Register*).



**Figure 55.** Clifton (Dick) Morgan (1889-1988) and Cecil Velma Allen Morgan (1894-1973). Wedding photo, 1910.

**Clifton Morgan and Velma** had the following children (*records provided by Connie Morgan, wife of Welton Eugene Morgan*):

- a. *Anna Lorene Morgan*, born 26 September 1913 in Neeley, Power, Idaho. She married 19 April 1945 to Ralph Nelson Burt, born 9 May 1905 in Laie, Oahu, Hawaii, son of William Wallace Burt and Mary Viroqua Nelson. They later lived in Kennewick, Benton, Washington.
- b. *Clifton Dale Morgan*, born 22 November 1914 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 20 March 1994 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. He married first 16 June 1947 to Vonda May Williams. They had a family and later divorced. Clifton married second 13 June 1969 in Reno, Washoe, Nevada, to Ruth Katherine Williams (Winters), born 22 July 1922 in Parker, Fremont, Idaho, daughter of Charles Williams and Mary Kunz. Ruth died 2 September 1999 in Taylorsville, Salt Lake, Utah (*BYUI Death Index, and Clifton Dale Morgan obituary, Idaho Falls Post Register 21 March 1994*).
- c. *Veril W. Morgan*, born 25 July 1916 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 24 December 2003 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 19 August 1947 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Iris Edwards and lived in Lincoln near Idaho Falls. Iris was born in 1916 in Riverdale, Franklin, Idaho, daughter of Vernon Benjamin Edwards and Harriet Elizabeth Barrington.
- d. *Stanley Adrian Morgan*, born 23 October 1917 in American Falls, Power, Idaho. He married first 5 December 1939 in Shelton, Jefferson, Idaho, to Elna Leona Turner, with whom he had a family. He married second to Elizabeth Davidson,
- e. *Betty Joy Morgan* was born 2 June 1922 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 2 June 1922 in American Falls.
- f. *Kay Lamoyne Morgan*, was born 14 August 1923 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 25 October 1923. He was buried in Neeley, Power, Idaho.
- g. *Jennie Marva Morgan*, was born 2 November 1924 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 10 April 2004 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 17 December 1941 in Bonneville County, Idaho, to Roscoe Lehi Quinton, born 29 June 1917 in Bloomington, Bear Lake, Idaho, son of Jesse Lehi Quinton and Minnie Morrall.
- h. *Donna Ruth Morgan*, born 28 December 1926 in American Falls, Power, Idaho. She married 20 February 1946 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to Dale Williams (*BYUI Marriage Index*).
- i. *Welton Eugene Morgan*, born 23 March 1930 in Declo, Cassia, Idaho. He married first 24 January 1952 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Phyllis Agnes Ames, born February 1932 in Lyman, Madison, Idaho, daughter of Joseph Austin Ames and Rebecca Marilla Simmons. Phyllis died 19 November 1994 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. Eugene married second 27 January 1994 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Connie Lee Warren (Foster), born 19 March 1941 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, daughter of Velton Willard Warren and Vonda Pauline Swallow.



- j. *Richard Lynn Morgan*, born 4 November 1933 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. He married first 3 December 1953 Sandra Camphouse. According to his brother Clifton's obituary, he lived in Caldwell, Canyon, Idaho, in 1994.
  - k. *Mayda Louise Morgan*, born 4 June 1937 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 4 June 1937 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho.
6. **Clara Morgan**, the sixth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross, was born 5 July 1891 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died in December 1891 in Neeley.
  7. **Melvin Morgan**, the seventh child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross, was born 7 April 1893 and died in 1895 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, of diphtheria.
  8. **Silas Asahel Morgan**, the eighth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross was born 15 January 1896 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died in 1896 of diphtheria.
  9. **Marvin Lee Morgan** (aka JP), the ninth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross was born 18 February 1897 in Neeley Power, Idaho, and died 19 July 1959 in American Falls, Power, Idaho. He married 4 February 1926 to **Ruth Ives Stanger** (Figure 56) in Logan, Cache, Utah, the daughter of George William Stanger and Serena Bartholomew. Ruth was born 17 May 1897 and died 3 December 1991 in Boise, Ada, Idaho.

*Information provided by  
Erin Morgan Prudhomme:*

Marvin attended school and church in Neeley, Idaho, but graduated from high school in American Falls. He served in the Army cavalry during World War I. Several years after his release from the Army, he married his high school sweetheart in 1926 and worked as a salesman and



**Figure 56. Marvin Lee (JP) Morgan (1897-1959) and Ruth Ives Stanger Morgan (1897-1991).** Photo, 1948.

partsman for the Ford garage and supply company in American Falls until about 1930.

In 1930 Marvin and Ruth acquired a 160-acre homestead in Lake Channel, about 21 miles southwest of American Falls, Idaho, on the banks of the Snake River. The family called it The Ranch and it became an important part of their lives. Many of Marvin's brothers and sisters brought their families to visit, and it is from these visits that so many fond memories of the Lake Channel Ranch come. In 1931 a modest frame house was moved to the ranch and some additions were added later. It was made of cut plank nailed vertically to a framework in board and batten fashion. There was a beautiful small lake in front of the house which overflowed into the meadowland north, east, and west of their property during wet years. Marvin built a pier out over the lake to watch the many birds. They built a fence around the homestead using cedar posts made from the native cedars in the area.

Ruth was greatly admired by her extended family for her strength and fortitude. In order to go to American Falls, she had to cross the Snake River and catch a bus on the highway. In winter she walked across the river on ice, and fell partially through the ice at least once; in the summer she or Marvin had to row a boat across.

Ruth was a clerk for the Lake Channel school board for 12 years and in 1940 became a clerk for the Power County selective service office until 1948. In about 1942 the family moved into American Falls, where Marvin worked as a guard for the American Falls dam and he later worked for the county highway department. In 1948 Marvin suffered a severe heart attack. He never was strong again, although he continued for awhile to work when he could and still loved to go fishing with his brothers and nephews.

The children of **Marvin and Ruth Morgan** are (*from Erin Morgan Prudhomme*):

- a. *Marvin Lee Morgan* (aka Van), born 2 February 1927 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 30 September 1989 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. He married Dorothy Ann Winter, daughter of Eugene Carlos Winter and Gladys Tayne. Van got a degree in civil engineering and worked for the Bureau of Reclamation for more than 40 years.
  - b. *Erin Serena Morgan*, born 17 September 1930 in American Falls, Power, Idaho. She married 6 July 1948 in Dillon, Beaverhead, Montana, to William Thomas Prudhomme, who was born 26 October 1926 in Sterling, Bingham, Idaho, son of William Thomas Prudhomme and Virginia Katherine Gray. Erin and William divorced 23 November 1970.
10. **Alvin Elmer Morgan**, the tenth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross, was born 28 November 1899 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 21 May 1970 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 24 December 1918 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, to **Sarah Anna Barnhart** (aka Anna), daughter of William Barnhart and Sarah Ann Mower (Figure 57). She was born 22 December 1900 in Rockland, Power, Idaho, and died 25 April 1983 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.



**Figure 57. Alvin Elmer Morgan and Sarah Anna Barnhart Morgan family.** Back row, left to right: Vera Joyce Morgan Owens (1929-), Elmo Alvin Morgan (1920-1996), Vada Drucy Morgan Burden (1925-). Front: Alvin Elmer (Al) Morgan (1899-1970), Sheral Stewart Morgan (1935-), Sarah Anna Barnhart Morgan 1900-1983). Photo, 1943.

*Extracted from "History of Alvin Elmer Morgan" by himself with notes added by daughter Vada Drucy Morgan Burden.*

As a boy, Alvin grew up in Neeley on land first homesteaded by his father, William. In 1918 he was granted a deferment from military duty because his older brother, Marvin, had been enlisted in the Army. As the next oldest boy living at home, he was entitled to be in the Boys Working Reserves which legally obligated him to stay at home to run the family farm. He and his family were kept very busy operating a large irrigated farm near Neeley as well as a dry farm about eight miles away.

In Alvin's own history he says that his work as a boy consisted of taking care of about 20 horses, some used for riding and pulling buggies and others used to pull farm equipment, including a large grain threshing machine. In addition he and his sister Julia had to milk and care for about 20 milk cows. They made their own butter and cheese for sale. For many years Alvin's mother set the milk out in pans overnight so that by morning the cream could be skimmed from the top to make butter. After many years of skimming the cream by hand, they finally bought a mechanical separator which more efficiently separated the cream from



the milk. Keeping the cows also required the production of large amounts of hay to be harvested all summer.

About a year after Alvin and Anna were married, they bought the John and Jane Charlesworth farm near Neeley in 1919. But that same year, he says, "We had our first dry farm failure in years," and couldn't make payments for the farm and had to turn the farm over to his brother Clifton (Dick) Morgan.

Alvin says after that crop failure: We left Neeley to move with team and wagon to Idaho Falls, Idaho, which was a mistake for there wasn't any work there and the biscuits got just about out of reach that winter. I worked around some at whatever I could find and mother [Anna] sold garden stuff in town. We did not live too good that year so N. C. Grant, a construction contractor building roads in Filer, Idaho, hired me. So we built a canvas top on a hayrack [wagon] and moved with our small son Elmo, to Filer near Twin Falls, Idaho."

They remained in the Twin Falls area until about 1926 when they moved to American Falls, Idaho, for about a year and then to Rockland, about 14 miles south of American Falls. They farmed in Rockland for about seven years.

Vada Morgan Burden wrote about her chores as a daughter.

We raised, cows, horses, sheep, pigs, and turkeys. Dad grew alfalfa to feed the animals and would spend the summers stacking hay for winter. We sold cream in Rockland and later sold it in American Falls, Idaho. Dad always butchered our meat for our own use. We raised a big vegetable garden that involved us children. We would help at planting time by planting cut potatoes in holes, and in the fall Dad would dig them up with a shovel while we helped pick them up. We stored our potatoes, cabbage, carrots, etc., in a dirt cellar. Dad and Mother made a lot of sauerkraut from the cabbages. . . .

We lived not far from a creek from which we would carry water in cans for our use and later on we would haul the water in buckets from an irrigation ditch to the house to heat it to wash the clothes. I remember Mom first having to scrub our clothes on a washboard and hang them out to dry. Later she had a wooden washer that, when we pulled the handle back and forth, would agitate the clothes to clean them, and then we would run them through a wringer operated by turning a handle to run the clothes through. Later her best washer was a Maytag that was operated with a gasoline motor and saved even more hand work. But we still had to haul and heat water through the years until after I was married in 1942.

Alvin and Anna's farm in Rockland was somewhat isolated, but active attendance at church and school provided social contacts.

Daughter Vada wrote:

I remember going to dances with Mom and Dad. Many in the neighborhood [rural tract] would come to the dances. . . . I also remember

when we would visit neighbors for get-togethers in the winter, sometimes traveling by sleigh. Dad would put hay in the sleigh and hot irons for our feet and cover us with blankets to keep us warm, and he would drive the team of horses to the neighbors' house. The older ones would play cards and visit. We kids made homemade ice cream and lots of cakes.

In the 1930s Anna drove a horse-drawn school bus for \$28 a month. During the winter when roads were snowed-in, wheels were removed from the bus to convert it to a sleigh. Vada recalls that about 15 children rode the bus which in winter had a canvas on top and a small stove to keep them warm. Alvin would harness the horses and get the bus ready for Anna to drive, and then he would care for the horses again at night.

In 1933 Alvin and family moved to Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho (just northwest of Idaho Falls), where they acquired irrigated farmland on which they grew crops until about 1940. He grew wheat, alfalfa, potatoes, and sugar beets for the Utah Idaho Sugar Company. He served as Bishop of the Osgood Ward of the LDS church from 1944 to 1949. After his release as bishop, Alvin and Anna tried farming briefly in Salmon, Lemhi, Idaho, and then for five years in Thornton, Madison, Idaho, and finally they moved to Shelley, Bingham, Idaho, where they lived at the time of Alvin's death in 1970.

Alvin's wife Sarah Anna Barnhart Morgan is remembered by her children as a hard-working mother who was sweet-natured, a good cook, a loving mother, and pleasant to be around. Anna's mother died when she was about one month old. Her father, having eight other children, took Anna to Elizabeth Shirliff Stewart to raise. Anna lived with Mrs. Stewart mostly in Clinton, Utah, until she was 16 years old. She then went to live with her father's family in Rockland, Idaho. She married Alvin Morgan in 1918 and as a farm wife worked hard at gardening, cooking, and raising a family of four. She remained active in the LDS church where over the years she served in many positions. Later in life she and Alvin took an interest in genealogy and searched out records important to their family histories.

The children of **Alvin and Sarah Anna Morgan** are (*provided by Vada Burden*):

- a. *Elmo Alvin Morgan*, born 7 February 1920 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 8 June 1996 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He married 6 December 1941 to Iris Irene Hardcastle, daughter of Oren Hardcastle and Mary Ida Morrissey. They lived in Firth, Bingham, Idaho.
- b. *Vada Drucy Morgan*, born 23 March 1925, Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho, married 5 November 1942 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Ray Miles Burden, who was born 26 April 1924 in Seibert, Kit Carson, Colorado, son of Ray Alfred Burden and Grace Myrtle Patton.
- c. *Vera Joyce Morgan*, born 26 July 1929 in American Falls, Power, Idaho. She married 21 December 1948 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, to James I. Owens.

- d. *Sheral Stewart Morgan*, born 23 November 1935 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married first 17 November 1955 in Idaho Falls to Melba Marie Ohman, born 30 September 1936 in Arco, Butte, Idaho, and died 26 August 1978 in Jackson, Teton, Wyoming. Melba was the daughter of Iver K. Ohman and Grace Keel. They had a family in Shelley, Bingham, Idaho. On 18 May 1990 Sheral married in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho, to Nelda Potter, daughter of Clarence Nile Potter and Ester Louise Saunders.
11. **Golden (Jack) Morgan**, born 8 October 1903 in Neeley, the eleventh child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross. He died 9 January 1983 in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada. He married 24 April 1924 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Lucy Frances Walker**, daughter of Edwin Albert Walker and Rose Hannah Green (Figure 58). She was born 23 November 1907 in Lewisville, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 7 April 1988 in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada.

*Extracted from a life sketch of Jack and Lucy Morgan written by daughter LaRae Miller.*

When Jack was 16 his mother died of accidental strychnine poisoning. The poison was inadvertently put into a can of Epsom salts which his parents used occasionally. Perhaps the poison was placed by mistake in packaging by the pharmacist in the local store. After his mother's death his father moved his family that were not married, Jack, Ken and Orlean, to the Rigby, Idaho, area.

In 1917 or 1918 at age 16 Jack joined the National Guard Cavalry during World War I. In 1918 the war was over so he did not see active duty.

He met Lucy Frances Walker, who was 16, and he was 21. They married on 24 April 1924. They lived for a while in Idaho Falls where LaRae was born and then moved to Clark in Jefferson County. About three years later Oma Jean was born in nearby Rigby in 1928. Sharon Rose was born in 1934 and Jean and Sharon were born at home in Rigby, Idaho. Dee Ann was born in 1944 after the family had moved to Fallon, Nevada.

In 1929 the Depression hit the whole nation, and families really struggled to make a living. Jack worked at many jobs. They farmed for a while and then he drove a milk truck for Kraft Cheese. He drove around to all the farms and picked up their ten-gallon cans of milk which they placed out in front of their farms every morning. In the winter it was very cold and there was no heat in the truck. The roads were snowy and icy.

About 1932 Jack started working for road construction companies which became his life's work. He started out driving a team of horses, pulling a Fresno scraper and dumping gravel onto the conveyer belt for the rock crusher plant. He worked up through the ranks as an oilman, batch man, fire man, and finally retired as superintendent of the asphalt plant that produced the material to pave the roads.



During this period the family moved with him to many different towns wherever the job was. In Idaho, Nevada, and California they lived in tents, travel trailer, and sometimes rented a house while on the road, then back to Rigby to spend the winters.



**Figure 58. Golden and Lucy Morgan and daughters.** Back row, left to right: Helen LaRae Morgan Rechel Miller (1924-2004), Oma Jean Morgan Slipper Gargiulo (1928-), Sharon Rose Morgan Beeghly (1934-). Front: Lucy Walker Morgan (1907-1983), Golden (Jack) Morgan (1902-1983), Dee Ann Morgan Nelson Rowe (1944-). Photo, 1962.

In 1942 the family moved to Fallon, Nevada, which was the headquarters of the Dodge Construction Company that Jack worked for. All four girls married in Fallon and still continue to live there.

In 1962 at age 60 Jack retired from the Teamsters Union. In 1954 Jack and Lucy bought Kicks Place Parlor that sold hamburgers and shakes, and Western Union selling magazines and newspapers. In 1966 they remodeled and turned it into the Downtowner Restaurant. Lucy and Oma Jean were the chefs. They sold it in 1974. Lucy continued to work for another restaurant, catering parties and giving banquets. Jack and Lucy traveled for a few years.

In 1978 Golden (Jack) Morgan suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed on his left side and unable to speak or communicate with anyone. He suffered like this for five years and passed away 9 January 1983. Lucy cared for him until he was put in a rest home for the last two years of his life. Lucy passed away 7 April 1988. They are buried side by side in the Fallon, Nevada, cemetery.

The children of **Golden (Jack) and Lucy Walker Morgan** are (*from records of Sharon Rose Beeghly and LeRae Miller*):

- a. *Helen LaRae Morgan*, born 26 November 1924 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 9 July 2004 in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada. She married first 26 September 1942 to Walter Edward Rechel, born 13 June 1921 in Fernley, Lyon, Nevada, son of George Rechel and Anne Frances Elleser. Walter died 14 June 1977 and is buried in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada. Helen married second on 7 February 1981 to Alfred Miller, who was born 31 October 1920 in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada, son of George Gardener Miller and Vida Louisa Babb.
- b. *Oma Jean Morgan*, born 24 March 1928 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. She married first 26 March 1950 to George Harry Slipper, who was born 22 April 1914 in Cleveland, Ohio, son of Albert George Slipper and Hazel Dunn. George died 21 June 1972 and is buried in Carson City, Carson, Nevada. She married second 6 April 1963 George F. Gargiulo, who was born 26 February 1939 in Bronx, New York, New York, son of Frank Joseph Gargiulo and Roseanna Crawley. He died 7 January 2002 and is buried in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada.
- c. *Sharon Rose Morgan*, born 25 June 1934 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 12 May 1951 to Ernst Saylor Beeghly who was born 24 January 1933 in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada, son of Samuel Beeghly and Daisy Florence Ernst.
- d. *Dee Ann Morgan*, born 14 March 1944 in Fallon, Churchill, Nevada. She married first 1 April 1962 to Lloyd LeRoy Nelson, son of Nels Nelson and Alice Margaret Bray. Dee Ann divorced Lloyd 27 December 1965. She married second 6 May 1966 to Richard Bixby Rowe, who was born 18 July 1943 in Bakersfield, Kern, California, son of Virgil Flynn Rowe and Margaret Edith Burns.



12. **Kenneth Morgan**, the twelfth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross, was born 28 October 1904 and died from a tractor accident 22 July 1969 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 4 February 1925 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Mary LaRosa Finn**, born 20 July 1907 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho, daughter of Wilfred Harris Finn and Sarah Jeffs (Figure 59). Mary died 20 July 1999 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.



**Figure 59. Kenneth and Mary Morgan family.** Back row, Left to right: Leah Mary Morgan Tracy (1929-), Kenneth Wayne Morgan 1926-1991), Margie Lucille Morgan Waters (1931-). Front row, L-R: Morris Brian Morgan (1942-), Kenneth Morgan (1905-1969), James Keith Morgan (1936-), Mary LeRosa Finn Morgan (1907-1999). Taken about 1944.

*The following was extracted from a Kenneth Morgan life sketch written by son James K. Morgan.*

Kenneth Morgan spent his early years on the Morgan family farm in Neeley, Idaho, where he acquired extensive experience with farming and horses. Ken learned and understood horses at a young age. He helped his older brothers capture wild horses in the mountains and bring them home to tame and ride. He became a proficient horseman at a young age.

Ken turned 13 years old in the fall of 1918. Three months later his life abruptly changed. His mother and father were in the habit of taking doses of Epsom salts as a tonic. On 10 January 1919, Ken's mother Lovina took a dose of the salts and quickly became ill. The doctor was called but she was



beyond help and died an agonizing death. His father William was also ill but he recovered. Strychnine, which is a white powder like Epsom salts, had been placed in the Epsom salts container some time before; it may have been there at the bottom of the can for a while. The can was routinely taken to the local druggist for refilling, and apparently strychnine was put into the can by mistake. On January 10 William and Lovina got down to the level of the strychnine and ingested it.

After Lovina's death, when William was 63, he decided to move the remainder of his family to a farm in the area near Ririe, Idaho, that was called Rudy then, and was close to Shelton, where many of his brothers, sisters and inlaws had settled. There were three children still at home at this time: Golden 16, Kenneth 13, and Orlean 12. This move was to have a major impact on the lives of the three youngest children who moved with William. Golden (Jack) and Ken met the women they would later marry at the dances held at the Rudy (Clark) Ward church house. Ken Morgan met Mary LeRosa Finn, who was born and raised in the Ririe area, and they were married on 4 February 1925.

Mary LeRosa Finn was a daughter of Wilford Harris and Sarah (Sadie) Jeffs Finn. Mary came from a large family of 10 children that were raised on a farm in the Clark Ward near Ririe. Interestingly enough, Ken and Mary had almost identical backgrounds. Both the Morgan and Finn families converted to the Mormon Church in England, came to America on wooden sailing ships, traveled to the American West by wagon train, and were raised on homesteads in Idaho.

Mary Finn was the oldest daughter and oldest child in the Wilford and Sadie Finn family. The Finns were hard-working people and careful money managers who were able to buy and improve their farm during times when most people were having great financial difficulty. The story is that Wilford Finn kept his savings in a fruit jar buried at the base of a tree in the orchard and that when the time came to build a new house he had the money to pay cash for the materials and labor.

Mary learned the Finn hard work and careful money management ethic early in her life. She had a great talent for sewing. She made clothes for all the family from patterns they designed themselves.

After their marriage Ken and Mary rented a farm in the Ririe-Clark area where, with a lot of hard work and help from his father and her father, they were able to save enough money to buy a farm of their own. On 1 March 1931 they bought a farm from the Eugene Stowell family located one mile east of Rigby, Idaho. It was about 55 or 60 acres and had a two-story square stone house and an old barn on it. Here Ken and Mary settled to raise their family. Like his father before him, Ken was not inclined to move around and he spent the rest of his life on the first farm he purchased.

They bought their farm during the Great Depression when others were

failing all around them. The farm was too small to be economically self-sufficient but Ken kept a herd of dairy cows to provide a steady income and worked at various part-time jobs in addition. In the early years he worked at stacking 100-pound bags of sugar during the winter months when the sugar factory near Rigby was operating.

For many years during the 1940s and early 1950s, he worked as a part-time plumber and had a complete set of plumbing tools. Late in his life he drove a school bus and dug graves at the Rigby Pioneer Cemetery.

Mary was a competent worker who made most of the family's clothes during many of the early years, raised a large garden every year, and canned and stored the garden food for winter (with the help of the children). In the 1960s she worked as a seamstress for the Bon Marche store in Idaho Falls and was a very good money manager. Her skill and discipline at handling money may have been the most important factor in their success during hard times. However, differences on the issue of money often led to conflict between them during the best years of their lives. This bitterness Mary regretted after Ken's death in 1969

In the early days after Ken and Mary Morgan bought their farm, their garden area had a small root cellar. During the Great Depression Mary's sister Olive and her husband Reid Adams built a two-room house in an orchard there, where they lived for a while in the old house. The old original root cellar was pressed into service as storage because the house was so small.

In the late 1940s Kenneth had a new barn built that was large enough to milk all of his cows at once (about 15 to 20 cows). It had a second-story hayloft which allowed hay to be dropped through an opening and fed to the cows as they were milked. Ken milked cows twice a day most of his life, a job he seldom got a vacation from.

Kenneth Morgan was killed in a tractor accident 22 July 1969 on his farm near Rigby, Idaho. While working with a tractor in the evening, while it was still daylight, he backed into an irrigation canal which caused the tractor to overturn, pinning him down under about three feet of water in the canal. He was not found until after dark that evening. He was 64 at the time of his death.

The children of **Kenneth and Mary Finn Morgan** are (*provided by Margie Waters*):

- a. *Kenneth Wayne Morgan*, born 9 October 1926 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 29 January 1991 in Missoula, Missoula, Montana. He married 2 December 1943 to Margaret Helen Mobley in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She was born 2 April 1927 in Hagerman, Gooding, Idaho, daughter of Ubert Campbell and Helen Fuller. She was placed in an orphanage in Boise, Idaho, as a child and later adopted by Grover Thurman Mobley and Katherine King.
- b. *Leah Mary Morgan*, born 11 October 1929 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 24 June 1949 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Richard Robert

- Tracy. He was born 31 May 1926 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, son of Richard Lavearl Tracy and Viola Hammer.
- c. *Margie Lucile Morgan*, born 3 April 1931 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 16 September 1949 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, Darrald Jesse Waters. He was born 12 July 1930 in Iona, Bonneville, Idaho, son of Seth Gates Waters and Frances Ethel Crow.
  - d. *James Keith Morgan*, born 11 October 1936 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 30 August 1956 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Jylene Stallings with whom he had a family. Jylene was born 30 November 1937 in Lewisville, Jefferson, Idaho, daughter of Irving Stallings and Iva Lords. After a divorce, he married second 16 August 1985 Marjorie Kempf. He married third 28 July 1997 to Josephine Lee.
  - e. *Morris Brian Morgan*, born 27 March 1942 Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. He married first 14 January 1963 to Randi Gomnaes, and second he married in 1973 to Audrey Ash. He married third 13 February 1976 to Maraland Pieske and fourth he married 4 November 1995 to Sherri Lu Taylor, who was born 20 April 1945 in St. Anthony, Fremont, Idaho, daughter of Jack Wilson Taylor and Virginia Lu Mosier.
  - f. *Judy Sarah Morgan*, born 7 June 1945 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 4 November 1966 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Darwin Jeppesen, whom she divorced 13 April 2001. He was born 24 June 1940 in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho, son of Joseph Elmo Jeppesen and Wanda Althea Ard.
  - g. *Lovina Kaye Morgan*, born 21 September 1950 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 12 April 1969 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho, to Michael Maurice Caverhill. He was born 5 July 1951 in Afton, Lincoln, Wyoming, son of John Henry Caverhill and Alta Pifer.
13. **Orlean Lovina Morgan**, the thirteenth child of William Morgan and Lovina Ross, was born 11 July 1907 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 11 January 1997 in Othello, Adams, Washington. She married **Lenard Nield** on 3 November 1926 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho (Figure 60). He was born 3 September 1902 in Afton, Lincoln, Wyoming, son of Thomas Taylor Nield and Elea-nore Caroline Bassett. He died 23 July 1985 in Othello, Adams, Wash- ington.



**Figure 60. Orlean Lovina Morgan Nield (1907-1997) and Lenard Nield (1902-1985). Photo, 1980s.**



Orlean wrote in her diary that when their family was young, they lived at Ammon, about two miles from Idaho Falls. They had a dairy which they called the Sunrise Dairy. When her oldest sons, Rex and Delbert, were in high school they would each take a truckload of milk to Idaho Falls and deliver it, then come home and get ready to go to school. In about 1950, Orlean and Lenard and all of their family moved to Victor, Ravalli, Montana, where they owned and ran a dairy of about 100 milk cows. Orlean also says that while in Montana, "We belonged to the Stevensville [LDS] Ward, but at first there was no church house until we could get a building of our own. We all helped with the building of the new church." After a few more years the family helped build two more LDS churches in this rural area of western Montana south of Missoula.

By the late 1960's all but one of their children had left Montana, so Orlean and Lenard decided to move to Othello, Washington, where they remained until their deaths.

The children of **Orlean Morgan and Lenard Nield** are *from records of Orlean Morgan Nield, provided by Tana Pratt*:

- a. *Lenard Rex Nield*, born 7 October 1927 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 12 October 1949 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Margaret Beverly Toone. She was born 1 September 1928 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, daughter of Olean Toone and Margaret.
- b. *Delbert Nield*, born 20 September 1929 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 21 May 1948 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Darlene Passey.
- c. *Bonnie Rae Nield*, born 4 July 1931 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 18 April 1951 to Wade Cecil Scott.
- d. *Doris Nield*, born 18 September 1934 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 31 May 1951 to Joey Dye Gardner. She died 12 September 1978 in Othello, Adams, Washington, at age 43.
- e. *Nancy Renae Nield*, born 7 October 1947 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 17 December 1966 to Dean Duane Jaques.
- f. *Steven Brent Nield*, born 14 May 1950 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 23 August 1969 to Heather Dee Bell and later divorced.

## Chapter 12

### James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin

**James John Morgan**, the seventh child of Thomas Morgan and Ann Watkins, was born 1 February 1860 in Goshen, Utah, and died 7 May 1918 near Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married first 16 February 1879 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, to **Amberzine Kimber Gustin** (Figure 61), born 13 April 1865 in Nephi, Juab, Utah, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Gustin and Ann Martha Green. James and Amberzine divorced in about 1910. Amberzine died 1 February 1926 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. James John married second 4 June 1912 in Dillon, Beaverhead, Montana, to **Ruth Denise Wilbur Bigham**, born 23 June 1857 in Eden, Weber, Utah, daughter of Stephen King Wilbur and Susan Byington. Ruth died 19 October 1959 in Menan, Jefferson, Idaho (*Idaho Falls Post Register*, 20 October 1959).

James John's parents, Thomas and Ann Watkins Morgan, were among the founding pioneers of Goshen, located about 30 miles south of Provo. When he was about six, in 1866, his parents and family moved to the newly founded community of Deseret in Millard County, Utah. About two years later the family founded another community in Millard County, later called Oak City; and by about 1872, at the age of 12, his family founded Leamington, Millard County, Utah, where James John grew to adulthood. Indeed he had spent his entire childhood in frontier settings, living at times in dugouts, forts, and simple adobe or log houses. Boys in such frontier Mormon villages worked hard in helping their families clear new farmland of brush and rocks, gather firewood, and help with irrigation and numerous other chores. Frontier life and hard work continued into adulthood for James John when he and his new wife followed his older brother Edward (Ted) Morgan and other family members in a move to new land in southern Idaho in about 1882.

James John's wife, Amberzine, was the daughter of a woman who was under the care of the Morgans in the 1880 census. Her mother Martha was living in the home of Thomas Morgan and his second wife Nancy Jane Radford Morgan and was identified as an invalid. Martha was later identified in Millard County records as an "insane woman" living in the home of Thomas Morgan.

As the extended Morgan family was getting larger and land was limited in Leamington, the young James John and his new wife decided, before they had a family, to join with relatives and other pioneers from Leamington and move to raw land on Southern Idaho's Snake River Plain. The community they founded there became known as Neeleyville (now Neeley) near what is now American Falls. While living there they had their first child, Minnie Pearl, in October of 1882.



**Figure 61. James John Morgan and Amberzine Kimber Gustin Morgan.** Back row: James John Morgan (1860-1918), Amberzine Kimber Gustin Morgan (1865-1926). Front: Minnie Pearl Morgan (1882-1964), probably Laura Ann Morgan (1886-1927). Photo, 1887.

Though good soils and irrigation water were more abundant and promising in Neeleyville than in Leamington, the young James John family nevertheless left Neeleyville in about 1884 and returned to Leamington where they remained until about 1888. Their second child, Laura Ann, was born in Leamington in February 1885, and their third, James Franklin, was born in Leamington in March of 1888.

In the fall of 1888 or spring of 1889 the James John and Amberzine family migrated to Wyoming, where, by the summer of 1889, nearly 60 of his Morgan and Radford



relatives had settled in a community now called Etna, just north of present-day Freedom. While in Wyoming they had their fourth child, Lillian Amberzine, in February of 1890 in Freedom, Uintah (now Lincoln) County, Wyoming.

In 1891, after two very severe winters in Wyoming, the James John and Amberzine family, along with most members of the Morgan family gave up on Wyoming and settled in the Eastern Idaho community of Shelton, near present Ririe.

While in Shelton, he and his young family again started over, clearing new land and pioneering a new community that had been founded only a few years before they arrived. Before 1910 he and Amberzine had four more children, all born in Shelton. The 1910 census of Willow Creek Precinct, Bingham County, Idaho, lists the parents together with four of their children still living at home. Also in the same household was his older brother Edward Morgan and wife Sarah.

In 1910 or shortly after, James John and Amberzine divorced. This was somewhat unusual at the time, especially after they had had at least eight children, the youngest of whom, Lawrence, was born in 1908.

In the 1920 Federal census, Amberzine was living in Long Beach, California, with her two sons, Alton 21 and Lawrence 11. She died 1 February 1926 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Her remains were shipped to the Ririe-Shelton Cemetery in Idaho, where she is buried next to her kin, but not next to her ex-husband.

In about 1912 or before, James John obtained work in Montana. While there he remarried on 4 June 1912 in Dillon, Beaverhead, Montana, to **Ruth Dennis Wilbur Bigham** (Figure 62). Ruth and James were well acquainted while living in Eastern Idaho, as she was a daughter of the woman (Susan Byington Wilbur) who married James' father, Thomas Morgan, when he was elderly.

Ruth first married on 7 October 1890 to Rufus James Bigham. She and Rufus had nine children while living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but she was divorced from her first husband some time before she married James in 1912. She died 19 October 1959 in Menan, Jefferson, Idaho. At that time her obituary lists her survivors as Charles Bigham of Pocatello, Idaho, and a daughter, Mrs. LeRoy Tanner, of Menan, Idaho. Records indicate that only three of her children with Rufus lived to adulthood (*Ancestral File*).

By 1914 James and Ruth had returned to Shelton, where their daughter Ollen Augusta Morgan was born on 4 January 1914 in Perry near present Ririe, Idaho.

The Bonneville County Probate Records list the heirs of James John Morgan in 1926 as follows: Ruth Morgan, widow, 51 years, Pocatello, Idaho; Pearl Potter, daughter, age 43, Bridge [Cassia], Idaho; Laura Ellis, daughter, age 40, American Falls, Idaho; Lillie A. Carson, daughter, age 37, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Ida Ellis, daughter, age 34, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Myrtle Ferguson, daughter, age 29, Rigby, Idaho; Alton Morgan, son, age 27, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Lawrence Morgan, son, age 18, Burley, Idaho; Ollen Morgan, daughter, age 12, Ririe, Idaho.

Eastern Idaho marriage records show that Ruth married her second husband's brother William Morgan of Rigby, Idaho, on 15 May 1928. Unwritten oral histories indicate that this marriage lasted only a short time.



**Figure 62. James John Morgan and Ruth Dennis Wilbur Morgan family.** James John Morgan (1860-1918), Ollen Augusta Morgan (1914-1994), Ruth Dennis Wilbur Morgan (1875-1959).

Children of **James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin Morgan** were as follows:

1. Minnie Pearl Morgan, 1882
  2. James Franklin Morgan, 1884 (died young)
  3. Laura Ann Morgan, 1886
  4. Ida Mae Morgan, 1888
  5. Lillian Amberzine Morgan, 1890
  6. Myrtle Luella Morgan, 1895
  7. Alton D. Morgan, 1898
  8. Laurence Deloss Morgan, 1908
1. **Minnie Pearl Morgan**, the first child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born 10 October 1882 in Neeley, Oneida (now Power), Idaho, and died 5 July 1964. She married **Clarence Lucine Potter**, 18 October 1898 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho. He was born 25 December 1872 in Livermore, Humboldt, Iowa, and died 22 March 1939 in Bridge, Cassia, Idaho. For about the first 10 years of their married lives, they lived in several mining towns in Arizona. They came back to American Falls, Idaho, in about 1910 but later moved to Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Idaho, and then Declo, Cassia, Idaho.

**Minnie (Pearl) Morgan and Clarence Potter** had the following children (*from the Clarence Potter family group sheet, SS Death Index and 1930 Census*):

- a. *Delores Montana Potter*, born 1 June 1900 in Jerome, Yavapai, Arizona, and died 9 September 1967, Burley, Cassia, Idaho. She married 5 September 1916 in Albion, Cassia, Idaho, to George Alvin Newbold, born 11 December 1892 in Taylorsville, Salt Lake, Utah, son of unknown Newbold and Elizabeth Bailey Lewis. George died 20 July 1964 in Burley, Cassia, Idaho (*Roots Web*).
  - b. *Otto Lucine Potter*, born 25 May 1902, Paulden, Yavapai, Arizona, and died 4 July 1902.
  - c. *Jess Doran Potter*, born 6 July 1903, Nogalas, Sonora, Mexico, and died 8 March 1959 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon. His wife's name, Amber, is in the 1930 census of Mason, Skokomish, Washington. Records indicate a second marriage to Ruth Esther Asbury, born 6 November 1910 in South Dakota, daughter of William Andrew Asbury and Amy E. Swan. (*SS Death Index and William Asbury obituary available on RootsWeb.com*)
  - d. *Minnie Lenora Potter*, born 10 February 1906, Douglas, Cochise, Arizona, and died 21 March 1966.
  - e. *Nell Laura Potter*, born 25 September 1910, American Falls, Power, Idaho, and died 9 July 1972. Her name in the 1930 census was Nellie Jennings. At that time she was living in her parents' household in Naf, Cassia, Idaho. She later married Otis Schmidt, who was born 7 March 1905 in Albion, Cassia, Idaho, son of John Martin Schmidt and Emma Caroline Harrison. He died 30 December 1951 in Burley, Cassia, Idaho.
  - f. *Mabel Mary Potter*, born 14 October 1912 in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Idaho. She married 26 November 1927 in American Falls, Power, Idaho, to Daniel Kniffen (*Western States Marriage Records, BYU*). In the 1930 census she is listed as Mable Kniffin and she was living in her father's household in Naf, Cassia, Idaho. She died in San Joaquin County, California, 5 January 1989.
  - g. *Morgan Leslie Potter*, born 21 August 1915, Declo, Cassia, Idaho, and died 17 March 1988 in Westminster, Orange, California.
2. **James Franklin Morgan**, the second child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born October 1884 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died in March 1885 in Leamington.
  3. **Laura Ann Morgan**, the third child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born 16 February 1886 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 9 March 1927 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho. She married 6 March 1901 to **John Daniel Ellis**, who was born 30 January 1880 in Logan, Cache, Utah, son of John Daniel Ellis and Elvina Fjeldsted. John died 17 June 1963 in Twin Falls, Idaho. John Ellis married second 8 July 1930 in Rupert, Minidoka, Idaho, to Elizabeth Ann Gourley (Owsley), who was also a descendant of Thomas Morgan. See Gourley line.



Laura and John were living in Bridge, Cassia, Idaho, in the 1920 census, but at the time of her death in 1927 the family was living in Yale, Cassia, Idaho. In 1928, after Laura had died, John and his family moved to Hagerman, Gooding, Idaho. According to John Ellis's obituary, he farmed near Hagerman, Idaho, from 1928 to 1941 when he gave up farming and moved into the town of Hagerman. He managed the Hagerman cemetery for 16 years and was on the Hagerman town board (council) for 17 years.

Laura Ann Morgan Ellis's obituary is in the *Pocatello Tribune*, 10 March 1927.

The children of **Laura Morgan and John Ellis** are (*from Ancestral File, SS Death Index, 1920 and 1930 censuses, John D. Ellis obituary in Twin Falls Times 19 June 1963*):

- a. *Lealund John Ellis*, born 2 March 1902 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 21 August 1993 in Homedale, Owyhee, Idaho (*SS Death Index*). He married 4 January 1922 in Burley, Cassia, Idaho, to Almira Smith who was born 18 January 1903 in Lewiston, Cache, Utah. She was the daughter of Isaac Leroy Smith and Rose Richardson. She died 28 January 1973 in Caldwell, Canyon, Idaho.
  - b. *Elvina Pearl Ellis*, born 27 June 1904 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 7 December 1977 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon. She married 3 September 1921 in Burley, Cassia, Idaho, to Arthur M. Bowen. In the 1930 census she lived with her father near Hagerman, Idaho, and had a six-year-old daughter named Alice Bowen. In her father's 1963 obituary, she was identified as Mrs. Pearl Bowen of Portland, Oregon.
  - c. *Sarah Amberzine Ellis*, born about 1906 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She was identified as Mrs. Jay M. Robinson of Vancouver, Washington, in her mother's 1927 obituary. In her father's obituary in 1963, she was identified as Mrs. Sarah Hay of Woodburn, Oregon.
  - d. *James Holford Ellis*, born 27 October 1911 in Bridge, Cassia, Idaho, and died 29 March 1958 in Gooding, Gooding, Idaho. He married 12 October 1933 in Gooding, Gooding, Idaho, to Edith Angeline Elrod.
  - e. *George Ellis*, born about 1916 and died 7 March 1977 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon (*SS Death Index*).
  - f. *May Ellis* was born about 1918. She married first 25 November 1928 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Mack Hyatt. He was born 25 October 1916 and died 26 February 1998 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon. They divorced. May was identified as Mrs. May Rockwell of Vancouver, Washington, in her father's 1963 obituary.
4. **Ida Mae Morgan**, the fourth child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born 10 August 1888, at Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 17 October 1949 in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. She married **William Ellis** on 2 January 1912, probably in the Shelton, Idaho, area. He was born 8 March 1883 in Providence, Cache, Utah, the son of William Heleman Ellis and Annie Elizabeth Buetler. He

died 23 May 1953 in Oregon and is buried in Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon.

In the 1920 census Ida Mae and William Ellis were living in Strevell, Cassia, Idaho, where he was a mail carrier, but by 1926 they were living in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where he secured a job at a lumber mill. He died 2 May 1953 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Ida Mae and William are both buried in the Klamath Memorial Park Cemetery in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon (*Klamath Falls Cemetery Index*).

**Ida Mae and William Ellis** had two children as follows:

- a. *Olive Mae Ellis*, born 14 November 1912, possibly in Bridge, Cassia, Idaho. She was age 17 in the 1930 census. She married first to Bee Anderson, who was born 14 November 1903 in perhaps Wisconsin, son of Frank Anderson and Sophia Gaapson. He died in 1983 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She married second Eric Valdemar (Olie) Anderson, brother of her first husband. He was born 27 October 1908 in Saint Croix Falls, Polk, Wisconsin, and died 2 November 1966 in Klamath Falls. Eric is the father of her two sons. She died at the home of her son in February 2001 in Fairview, Multnomah, Oregon. She was buried in Klamath Falls, Oregon (*data provided by Teresa Moorman, a niece*).
- b. *William Morgan Ellis*, born 9 June 1919 in Bridge, Cassia, Idaho, and died 29 August 1972 in Klamath Falls, Oregon (*family tree maker*). He married 1 September 1945 in Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada, to Juanita Blanche Trippy. She was born 2 September 1917 in Sand Springs, Tulsa, Oklahoma (*Teresa Ellis Moorman records, daughter*). They lived in Klamath Falls and had two children.

5. **Lillian Amberzine Morgan**, the fifth child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born 22 January 1890 in Freedom (Etna) Wyoming (*Star Valley, Wyoming Stake LDS records*). She married first 29 May 1906 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Franklin M. Fisher**, who was born in what is now Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. According to her father's 1926 probate record listed above, and her mother's obituary above, she married second Mr. Carson or Corson and settled in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. She was not listed in the 1930 census of Klamath Falls nor the 1936 Klamath Falls City Directory under the Carson name.

Two children of **Lilly Morgan and Frank Fisher** are (*Shelton, Idaho, LDS Member Records, and 1910 Census of Willow Creek, Idaho*):

- a. *James F. Fisher*, born about 1906 near Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho.
- b. *Hazel R. Fisher*, born 14 October 1908 near Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho.

6. **Myrtle Luella Morgan**, the sixth child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born 29 October 1895 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 28 June 1970 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She is buried in the Ririe-Shelton Cemetery. She married **George Henry Ferguson** on 29 April 1911 at Perry Ward (Ririe), Jefferson, Idaho. He was born in Logan, Cache, Utah, 8 October 1890, the son of

Albert Ferguson and Mary Gneiting. He died in Idaho Falls on 19 November 1984.

George Ferguson's obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 20 November 1984, states that they lived in Shelton near Ririe for many years where he was a farmer and carpenter. After selling the farm in Idaho in 1941, they moved to Bremerton, Kitsap, Washington, where she was employed at the U. S. Naval Yard cafeteria. According to her obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 29 June 1970, the Fergusons moved back to Idaho Falls in 1944, where they resided until their deaths. She worked at potato seed houses in Idaho Falls and Ririe, at the Idaho Potato Growers, and at Duke's Delicatessen in Idaho Falls. As a carpenter George worked on at least three Idaho Falls LDS chapels and a stake center. They raised a family on their farm near Ririe, Idaho.

The children of **Myrtle and George Ferguson** are (*Ancestral File, LDS member records of Shelton, Idaho, obituaries cited below*):

- a. *Hazel Muriel Ferguson*, born 14 July 1912 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 25 January 2000 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married first 20 September 1930 to Jesse Loren Blackburn in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Jesse died 19 March 1965 in Idaho Falls. She married second 14 March 1970 in Great Falls, Cascade, Montana, to Erland (Andy) Anderson. Andy died from a boating accident 7 June 1975 (*see Hazel's obituary in Idaho Falls Post Register*, 27 January 2000).
  - b. *Sarah June Ferguson*, born 9 June 1915 in Shelton, died 15 June 1915 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho.
  - c. *James Raymond Ferguson*, born 18 May 1918 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 18 October 1995 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 1 September 1934 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Verla Leona Heyrend (*obituary, Idaho Falls Post Register*, 19 October 1995).
  - d. *Eldon George Ferguson*, born 9 February 1923, Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and was killed at age 53 on 5 February 1977 in a snowmobile accident in Island Park, Fremont, Idaho. He married Joyce D. Hams 30 June 1944 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. They lived in Grant, Jefferson, Idaho (*obituary, Idaho Falls Post Register*, 7 February 1877).
7. **Alton D. Morgan**, the seventh child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born 7 July 1898 and died 13 October 1945 in Eugene, Lane, Oregon. According to his obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register* (17 October 1945), he married a woman named Gertrude. He was 12 years old in the 1910 census in Shelton (Willow Creek), living with his parents. In 1920 he was in Long Beach, California, living with his mother and brother Lawrence. In the 1930 Federal census he was living in a boarding house in Westwood, Lassen, California, age 31 and was single. The Klamath Falls, Oregon City Directory for 1940 lists Alton Morgan as a resident of that city and that he was a millworker there at that time.



He and his wife Gertrude were also residents of Klamath Falls when he died, although his death was in Eugene, Lane, Oregon. The Linkeville Cemetery in Klamath Falls, Oregon, lists Alton D. Morgan, born in 1898 and died in Klamath Falls in 1945.

8. **Lawrence Deloss Morgan**, the eighth child of James John Morgan and Amberzine Gustin, was born 23 May 1908 and died in October 1971, probably in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He was reared by his single mother who divorced his father sometime after 1910. While living in Burley, Idaho, at the age of 17 he married Wilda Marston, then 15 years old. Wilda Marston was born 9 February 1909 in Kaysville, Davis, Utah. On 20 May 1925 they had a son, John Dee, in Burley, Cassia, Idaho. But because the parents were so young and Lawrence had gotten in trouble with the law, they could not adequately take care of their child. At the age of four, their son, who was called Dee, was taken in and reared by Wilda's sister, Martha Marston Warnick, and her husband Elmer R. Warnick (*information provided by John D. Warnick*).

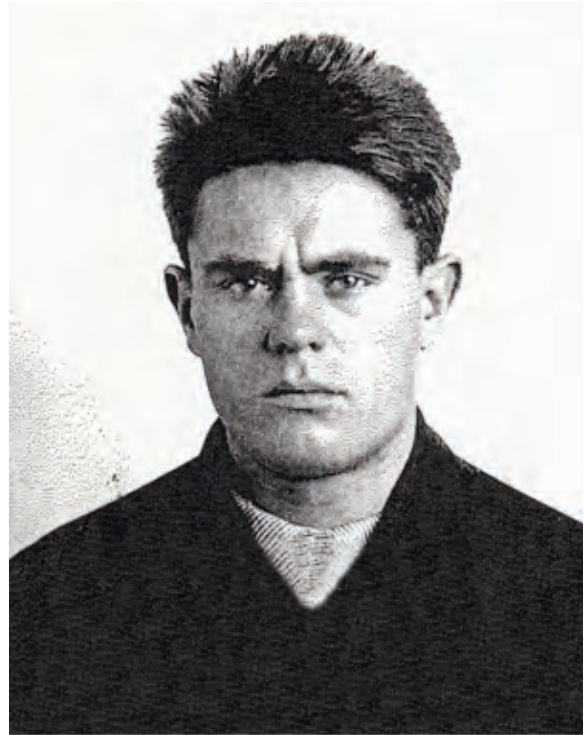


Figure 63. Lawrence Deloss Morgan (1908-1971).

As an 18-year-old in Burley, Idaho, Lawrence pleaded guilty to forgery and in 1928 was sent to the Idaho State Penitentiary in Boise. After serving 33 months he was released on parole in 1931. He then moved with his wife Wilda to Klamath Falls, Oregon. The Social Security Death Index has his death in October 1971, Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon. Wilda died in Burns, Harney, Oregon, on 4 March 1939.

The child of **Lawrence Deloss and Wilda Marston** is:

- a. *John Deloss Morgan* (Warnick), born 20 May 1925 in Paul, Cassia, Idaho. He first married 22 July 1946 in Manti, Sanpete, Utah, to Letha Ruby Jorgenson, daughter of Enock Jorgenson and Elvira Nielsen. She died of cancer 22 February 1980 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah. John married second Phyllis H. Peterson on 22 August 1980 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

At the age of about three, John was taken into the home of his aunt, Martha Marston Warnick, and her husband, Elmer Richelieu Warnick, who lived on a farm about 10 miles from Burley, Cassia, Idaho. He was reared in this home but not legally adopted by the Warnick family until after he had turned 18 and

was in the Marine Corps. He officially had his name changed to John D. Warnick while at home on furlough from the Marines. (*John D. Warnick Memoirs, 1999.*)

Child of **James John Morgan** and second wife **Ruth Dennis Wilbur Bigham**:

9. **Ollen Augusta Morgan** was born 4 January 1914 at Shelton, Jefferson, Idaho. Ollen lived in Ririe, Idaho, until she was 19. As a child she was listed as a member of the Shelton LDS Ward which recorded her birthdate. She was also listed with her mother as a member of the Ririe Ward on 22 July 1928, and she and her mother are shown as moving from Ririe to Rigby, Idaho, in 1929. By that time her mother had married William Morgan, the brother of James John. But this marriage lasted only a short time.



**Figure 64.** Ollen Augusta Morgan Tanner (1914-1994), James LeRoy Tanner (1901-1969). Wedding 1945.

*Extracted from a life sketch of Ollen Augusta Morgan, author unidentified.*

In 1933 Ollen moved with her mother and half-brother James to a one-room cabin on a small farm in Blackrock (near Inkom), Bannock, Idaho, just south of Pocatello. Ollen and her mother both worked at odd jobs during the Depression years to support themselves, while James worked for the WPA in Pocatello, riding his bike 10 miles daily to his work. His \$15.00 per month helped the poor family get through each month.

In about 1937 Ollen's mother moved to Pocatello, where Ollen worked for the National Youth Association and supplemented her meager income by doing housework. She also took adult education classes to become a nursery school teacher. In 1940 Ollen went to work in the nursery school at the Idaho State College in Pocatello, and later became the head teacher of a nursery school in Shelley, Bingham, Idaho. She and her mother moved to Shelley where they remained until November 1941.

In 1943 Ollen and her mother moved to Venice, Los Angeles, California, where she worked in the North American Aircraft factory as a riveter.

Ollen moved back to Idaho Falls in 1944 where she found work at an Idaho Falls seed house and met her future husband, LeRoy Tanner, while working there."

Ollen married **James LeRoy Tanner** 5 November 1945 at the home of Nora Palmer in Blackrock, Bannock, Idaho. He was born 19 October 1901 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, the son of James Monroe Tanner and Janette Weeks. Ollen was his second wife.

LeRoy took Ollen in 1945 to a 138-acre homestead at Irwin, Bonneville, Idaho. They had no electricity and had to draw water from a deep well with rope and bucket. But Ollen loved her new home and enjoyed living there until about 1951 when the government bought their land to make room for the new Palisades Dam and reservoir. While living there, they had a son, Mark James Tanner.

In 1952 the Tanners settled in Menan, Jefferson, Idaho. In 1955 Ollen's mother, Ruth, came to live with them at their Menan home until Ruth died in 1959.

James LeRoy Tanner died in Menan, Jefferson, Idaho, on 8 May 1967. After her husband's death, their son Mark (their only child) continued to live at Ollen's home until he got married in 1975. Ollen lived alone for the next 11 years, filling her time with church activities, such as Relief Society and Primary, and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. Ollen was made captain of the local chapter (camp) of the DUP in 1985 and served as captain for three years.

In 1989 Ollen became ill and moved to Roberts, Jefferson, Idaho, to be with her son, but in 1991 she moved to an apartment complex for retirees in Pocatello, Idaho. She died on 19 December 1994 in a Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, hospital. She is buried in Annis, Jefferson, Idaho, at Little Butte Cemetery.

**Ollen Morgan and LeRoy Tanner** had one child:

- a. *Mark James Tanner*, born 16 June 1951 in Irwin, Bonneville Idaho, and died 16 October 2002 in Rawlins, Carbon, Wyoming. He married in 1975 to unidentified. He married second 7 August 1998 in Shelley, Bingham, Idaho, to Donna Jean Gunderson (Villeneuve). She was born 15 May 1949 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. Mark is buried in Annis, Jefferson, Idaho.



## Chapter 13

### Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel “H” Radford

**Everal Hannah Morgan** was the eighth and youngest child of Thomas Morgan and Ann Watkins. She was born 27 June 1862 in Goshen, Utah, Utah. She married 28 July 1877 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, to **Daniel H Radford**, born 6 March 1857 in Fillmore, Millard, Utah, son of John Whitlock Radford and Leah Smith (Figure 65).

Everal was only about four years old when her family moved to Deseret, Millard, Utah, to found a new community on the Sevier River of central Utah. Perhaps her earliest memories were of life in the dugouts of Deseret or Oak City, another newly founded community her parents moved to in about 1868. But most of her growing-up years were spent in Leamington, Millard, Utah, a community founded by her parents in about 1872. She grew to adulthood and met and married her first husband in this farming community on the Sevier River in Millard County. As a girl she would have seen difficult times and primitive living conditions while pioneering new lands on the Utah frontier.

Leamington was the first home for Everal and Daniel and is where their first four children were born between 1879 and 1885. But along with most other members of the Morgan-Radford extended families, Everal and Daniel decided to emigrate in about 1888 with their parents and relatives to Star Valley, Wyoming, to an area just being opened for new settlement on the Salt River in the north part of that valley near the Idaho border. When they made the move, they had four boys with them, the oldest of whom was about 10. In July of 1889 Everal gave birth to their fifth child on the frontier near Freedom (now Etna), Wyoming.

All members of the Morgan-Radford clan settling that community in Wyoming, which numbered nearly 60 people, found the winters very long and cold and the environment more difficult for farming than was the case in Leamington. So in 1891 Everal and Daniel decided, along with all their relatives in Wyoming, to move to the Snake River country of Eastern Idaho. They lived on farms in the rural tracts of Labelle and Rudy near present Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, where they lived most of the rest of their lives and reared their family of seven children.

*The following is extracted from a typescript written by Vera LaVona Radford Haskell, a granddaughter of Everal and Daniel and entitled “History of Everal Hannah Morgan Radford and Daniel H Radford.” Undated.*

Vera says: “Although grandfather [Daniel H Radford] passed away two years before I was born, grandmother, dad and mother related these facts to me.

In 1899 Daniel and Everal Hannah bought a farm in East Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho. They lived there for a number of years but seasonally took the family for a number of years to Hailey, Blaine, Idaho, where Daniel



**Figure 65. Everal and Daniel H Radford family.** Back row, left to right: Daniel H (Dee) Radford (1881-1951), James William Radford (1879-1942), John Edward Radford (1883-1958). Middle row: Daniel H Radford (1857-1906), Everal Hannah Morgan Radford (1862-1941). Front: Geneva Priscilla Radford (1889-1954), George Henry Radford (1885-1968), Maud Ella Radford (1892-1960), Ethel Rebecca Radford (1896-1968). Photo, 1897 or 1898.

worked at the Minnie More Mine. One summer they put in crops near Fairfield, Blaine, Idaho, at Mormon Reservoir. The crops failed because of a shortage of water so they came back to Labelle.

In 1906 Daniel filed on a homestead farm in Rudy (now Ririe), Jefferson, Idaho. In addition to farming, he also helped harvest and saw logs for some of the early homes in the area. He built a two-room log home where he died that same year (1906). He was 49. Everal was left with the small farm on which she and her children worked hard at milking cows and caring for pigs, chickens, and horses. As she became older, her son George Henry Radford rented her farm and later bought it. Everal was living with her son Daniel (Dee) Radford (who had married her brother William Morgan's daughter Ada), when she passed away 10 March 1941 at Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, at age 79.

Everal was living with her son Daniel and his wife Ada when she died 10 March 1941 at Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. She was 79. According to her granddaughter Vera, "Grandma was enjoying fairly good health the morning she passed away. She arose and went outside before the others got up. She went back into the house and to the kitchen stove, moving a lid or two. In a while she called out to Uncle Dee [Daniel] and Aunt Ada, who came to her side. They tried to lay her down in bed, but to their amazement she was stiff and cold. They couldn't do much for her, and in a minute she drew her last breath."

Grandma Everal had lovely blue eyes and long gray hair that she kept in a nice bob near the back of her neck. Her hair was a light brown in her younger days. She was always slim and trim all of her days, being about five foot six or seven. She was always clean and well groomed and she kept her lumber floor spotlessly white. People respected it and always cleaned their feet when coming into her nice clean home.

**Everal Morgan and Daniel "H" Radford** had seven children (Figures 66, 67):

1. James William Radford, 1879
2. Daniel "H" Radford, 1881
3. John Edward Radford, 1883
4. George Henry Radford, 1885
5. Geneva Priscilla Radford, 1889
6. Maude Ella Radford, 1892
7. Ethel Rebecca Radford, 1896

1. **James William Radford** (Figure 66), the first child of Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel H Radford, was born 29 April 1879 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 29 January 1942 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 12 April 1906 to **Mary Jane**





**Figure 66.** James William Radford (1879-1942) is sitting, left front, In the picture with him are three of his brothers (all sons of Daniel H and Everal Hannah Morgan Radford), and two cousins (sons of John Franklin and Priscilla Morgan Radford). These two families are the result of the marriage of two Radford brothers to two Morgan sisters.



**Figure 67. Everal Hannah Radford and sons.** John Edward Radford (1883-1958) is standing in the rear just left of center. Andrew Jackson Ross, right rear, had been clipped out of the original picture and was “patched” back in from a lesser quality picture.

**Carpenter** in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho. She was the daughter of William Sheffield Carpenter and Mary Elizabeth Hodges. She was born 18 May 1887 in Washington, Washington, Utah, and died 8 May 1962 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho.

He was a boy of about 10 when his parents and many relatives pioneered the community of Freedom (now Etna), Wyoming, and about 12 when his family moved to the Shelton, Idaho, area. He and his wife lived most of their lives in Jefferson County, Idaho. He died at age 62 of heart disease at the home of his son Glen in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho. (See his obituary in *Idaho Falls Post Register* 30 January 1942.)



The children of **James and Mary Radford** were (*from records of Maurine Hall Radford and SS Death Index*):

- a. *Glen James Radford*, born 28 January 1909 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho, and died in June 1986 in Annis, Jefferson, Idaho. He was married 5 November 1929 to Dorothea (Dot) Louisa Monroe. She was born 22 March 1914 and died 4 January 1990 in Idaho.
  - b. *Arnold Daniel Radford*, born 4 February 1911 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho, and died in August 1987 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He was married 31 December 1920 in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho, to Faye Julia Russell, who was born about 1924, daughter of Wesley W. Russell and Sylvia Eleanore Peterson, who lived in Rigby, Idaho.
  - c. *Ila Lenore Radford*, born 16 December 1913 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 12 March 1914 in Clark.
  - d. *Darrel Raymond Radford* (aka Dick), born 29 March 1917 in Clark, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 4 October 1962 at Missawa U.S. Air Force Base, Japan. He married 27 July 1936 in St. Anthony, Fremont, Idaho, to Lillie Loretta Collier, born about 1919, daughter of Charles Julius Collier and Martha Connel.
  - e. *Therle Fay Radford* (twin), born 23 October 1919 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died in October 1986 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 2 August 1938 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to Martha Lametta Collier, who was born 17 April 1922, daughter of Charles Julius Collier and Martha Connel. She died 26 August 1977 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.
  - f. *Merle Ray Radford* (twin), born 23 October 1919 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 24 January 1978. He married 29 October 1941 in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho, to Maurine Hall, born about 1922, daughter of Earl Clark Hall and Eva Mae Stewart.
  - g. *Wendell Carlyle Radford*, born 27 May 1924 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 23 November 1992 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He was married 10 June 1947 to Joan June Russell in Dillon, Beaverhead, Montana. Joan was born 3 June 1931 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to Wesley W. Russell and Sylvia Eleanore Peterson.
  - h. *Lamont Laverne Radford* (aka Mont), born 2 February 1927 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 12 October 1972 in Coltman, Jefferson, Idaho. He was married 14 October 1946 to Barbara Jean Gourley.
  - i. *Rex Verdell Radford*, born 20 July 1929 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 31 December 1935 in Ririe.
2. **Daniel "H" (Dee) Radford**, the second child of Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel H Radford, was born 26 March 1881 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 29 May 1951 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 7 March 1906 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, to his cousin **Ada Melissa Morgan**, daughter of Everal's brother William Morgan and Sarah Lovina Ross. Ada was born 28 June 1886 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 6 March 1968 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. For family picture, see Figure 54, page 121.



**Daniel and Ada Radford** had the following children (*from records of Ada M. Radford, SS Death Index, 1930 Census, East Idaho Obituaries BYUI*):

- a. *Rulon Daniel Radford*, born 3 April 1907 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died 5 June 1953 in Idaho. He was married 28 January 1926 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Laura Leona Staggie, born 21 April 1908 in Ogden, Weber, Utah, daughter of William John Fredrick Staggie and Laura May Webster. Laura died in Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon, on 28 May 1995.
  - b. *Ada Verna Radford*, born 2 December 1909 in Neeley, Power, Idaho, and died in June 1987 in Caldwell, Canyon, Idaho. She married 22 December 1927 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, to Glen Montague who was born 22 April 1904 in Woodville, Bingham, Idaho, son of James A. Montague and Susan L. Jones. Glen died 12 July 1964 in Idaho.
  - c. *Lovina Bernice Radford*, born 29 August 1920 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 31 October 1959. She was married 19 January 1940 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, to Sylner Bergeman.
  - d. *Don William Radford*, born 13 May 1923 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 24 April 1998 in Emmett, Gem, Idaho. He was married 9 November 1944 to Helen Elizabeth Simpson, who was born about 1926, daughter of Weston and Gladys Simpson.
3. **John Edward Radford**, the third child of Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel H Radford, was born 3 January 1883 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died at age 74 on 17 January 1958 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married **Eva Amanda Teeples** on 6 April 1905 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho. She was the daughter of Henry Alanson Teeples and Anna Eliza Savage. Eva was born in Holden, Millard, Utah, on 10 December 1886 and died 2 July 1976 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

According to his obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 19 January 1958, he was a former bishop of the Labelle, Idaho, LDS Ward and also served as watermaster of the Lowder and Jennings Sloughs in Labelle, Idaho.

The children of **John and Eva Radford** are (*from records of Eva Radford, Eastern Idaho Obituaries, SS Death Index and Ancestral File*):

- a. *Loren Edward Radford*, born 26 December 1908 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 29 December 1986 in Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona. He married 3 September 1929 to Gladys Naoma Monroe who was born 3 April 1911 in Republican, Harlon, Nebraska, the daughter of William Johnson Monroe and Sarah Ann Shipley. She died 15 June 1980 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
- b. *Karrel Willis Radford*, born 16 August 1913 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 29 October 1934 in Logan, Cache, Utah, to Elva Geneva Brown. LDS Church records of Ririe report that Willis died of a homicide in 1934.
- c. *Estella May Radford*, born 14 February 1916 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 23 November 1934. She was married 3 December 1932 to Arthur Alfred Noreen, who was born 26 November 1906 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, the son of Matt Noreen and Chestie Nielsen. He married second Louisa Brown. Arthur died 27 June 1977 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho.

- d. *Carl Dale Radford*, born 5 September 1918 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 10 September 1918 in Perry, Idaho.
  - e. *Blaine Art Radford*, born 18 October 1919 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 14 June 1977 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 28 June 1941 in Lebelles, Jefferson, Idaho, to Wanda Darlene Hunting, born about 1923, daughter of George Edmond Hunting and Rhoda Sarah Harmon.
  - f. *Verda Radford*, born 21 January 1923 in Torrey, Wayne, Utah. She was married 31 May 1941 to Lynn Leroy Richards at Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho. He was born 19 July 1919 and died 29 January 2003 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
  - g. *Dallas Lavar Radford*, born 11 May 1925 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 1 November 1971. He was married first to Louise Egan, and second he was married 26 July 1946 to Verna Johnson.
  - h. *Theola Geneva Radford*, born 22 July 1927 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She married 19 January 1946 Dean McCafferty in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He was born about 1920, son of Walter McCafferty and Hassie.
4. **George Henry Radford** (Figure 68), the fourth child of Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel H Radford, was born 11 February 1885 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 17 February 1968 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married **Martha**



**Figure 68. George Henry and Martha Radford family.** Back row, L-R: Martha Elizabeth Spracher Radford (1888-1969), Vera LaVona Radford (1908-1992), George Henry Radford (1885-1968). Front, L-R: George Elmer Radford (1910-1968), James Wayne Radford (1916-1980), Hazel Veretta Radford (1912-1917), Etsel Henry Radford (1914-1984).

**Elizabeth Spracher** on 4 September 1907 in LeBelle, Jefferson, Idaho (Figure 68). She was born 10 June 1888 in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 31 January 1969 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho. She was the daughter of George Grant Spracher and Margaret Ellen Fisher.

George Radford was perhaps the first of the Morgan descendants to have published a photo and life sketch of Thomas Morgan. It is in the book *Pioneer Irrigation, Upper Snake River Valley*, by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1955, pages 87, 88. That same book includes the following about George Radford:

George Radford of Ririe has spent many years of his life working on the Great Feeder headgate [a facility on the Snake River which diverted irrigation water for use on farms] and is still [1955] considered the handyman. Because of his small stature he is able to get in places and under the dam to do some jobs necessary to keep it clean. . . . Many times he has crawled down under the dam to replace work bolts and, although he is now 69 [1955] years old, this wiry little man is still working. He now has a rope tied securely around his body when removing driftwood and tightening bolts. One year when high water brought down a solid band of driftwood, he and others worked incessantly to keep the river from washing away the Great Feeder headgate. They filled hundreds of sacks of cobble rocks and placed them on the headgate five or six feet high to keep the water from going over [the headgate].

On one occasion a man was drowned in Jackson Hole [upstream on the Snake River in Wyoming]. Andrew Ross, Rueben Ross, Ezra Moore, Willard Moore, and Mr. Radford [all related to each other] recovered the body and buried him beside the river in a casket which they constructed.

*The following was extracted from a life sketch of George Radford and a life sketch of Martha Spracher Radford, written by their daughter Vera Haskell:*

Though George Radford was born in Utah, he grew up mainly in the rural tract of LeBelle, Jefferson, Idaho, where his parents acquired a farm which had a house that was formerly a school house. Vera Haskell writes that after George and Martha met as young adults, their courtship included attending all the church and school dances where they became popular and well known as good dancers. After five years of friendship followed by courtship, on September 4, 1907, George went to the Spracher home and picked up his love and together they went back to the Radford home. They were married there that afternoon, and following their wedding, George's sister Geneva and Albert Askew were also married in the same home. They were witnesses to each other's marriages and a big dance was held after the weddings.

The homestead that George's father, Daniel H Radford, was on had been divided, and George and his new bride began immediately to build a home on it. They lived on this same farm all the rest of their lives. [When they first got the land] it was completely covered with sagebrush and big cedar trees,



which had to be removed to make it possible to farm. As George had to spend so much of his time at the Great Feeder headgate, much of the clearing of the land and farm work had to be done by Martha. The cedar trees were used for fence posts.

Hard times were had by Martha and George as they attempted to raise their family. They had many trials and disappointments to face . . . as some of their 12 children suffered from seizures and other serious physical conditions that tested the courage and faith of George and Martha. Losing so many of their children at such early ages was very difficult for them to endure. The noble example of their lives has been an inspiration to their family and we honor them for their always being cheerful and showing hospitality to all they met.

Many a farmer in this [tract] owns a hay derrick and potato cellar that was built by George Radford. He was respected for his knowledge and wide range of abilities. He was an expert with dynamite and on many occasions was called to supervise the blasting of rock along the Snake River or other places where headgates and canals were being built.

George loved baseball and was considered an expert player. At one time he was offered a position on a professional baseball team as a pitcher. Because of the time it would take away from home, he gave up his dream. He was a great sportsman and loved fishing and spent many hours on the river.

George Radford was an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in September of 1957 and their 60th anniversary in September 1967. In 1968, on a typical rainy February day, death came to him silently and sealed the life of George Henry Radford, 85-year-old pioneer to this great Snake River Valley that he loved so dearly."

George Radford's obituary is in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 19 February 1968.

Martha Spracher was a native of Labelle, Idaho. Her parents, after leaving their homes in Ogden, Utah, in about 1888, were among the early pioneers of the Snake River Plains area of Eastern Idaho. Martha was the oldest of five children born to the Spracher family. As an adult she was first and foremost a mother, having borne twelve children, seven of whom reached adulthood. She was also devoted to her church work which involved a lifetime of service, especially in the Relief Society of her ward, at various times until her death in January 1969, just about a year after the death of her husband.

See also Martha Spracher Radford's obituary in *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 2 February 1969.

**George and Martha Radford's** children were (*from Martha Radford records, records of grandson Blaine Haskell, and Ancestral File*):

- a. *Vera LaVona Radford*, born 28 October 1908 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 2 June 1992 in Carey, Blaine, Idaho. She married 26 June 1929 in Idaho Falls,

- Bonneville, Idaho, to Charley Hans Haskell, born 28 November 1905 in Kilgore, Clark, Idaho, son of Charles Oscar Haskell and Elena Maria Christiansen. Charley died 1 February 1994 in Hailey, Blaine, Idaho.
- b. *George Elmer Radford*, born 20 February 1910 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 15 April 1968 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 2 May 1935 to Rita Nebeker, born 20 March 1919 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, daughter of George Wesley Nebeker and Fanny Elizabeth Vincent. Rita died 17 October 2001 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho.
  - c. *Hazel Veretta Radford*, born 24 December 1912 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 5 September 1917 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho.
  - d. *Estel Henry Radford*, born 17 February 1914 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 6 November 1984 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He was married 2 March 1935 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Cleo Lavon Gallup, born 4 May 1919 in Melba, Canyon, Idaho, daughter of Leon Gallup and Lina Lavon Coles. She died 14 January 2004 in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho.
  - e. *James Wayne Radford*, born 8 November 1916 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 28 February 1980 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 2 March 1939 in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho, to Leah Eleanore Russell, the daughter of Wesley W. Russell and Sylvia Eleanore Peterson.
  - f. *Jessie Ray Radford*, born 6 December 1918 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 4 August 1991 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 24 January 1941 in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho, to Erma Scott, born 16 October 1923 in Thornton, Madison, Idaho, daughter of Clarence W. Scott and Mary Eleanor Spendlove. She died 24 February 1998 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
  - g. *Maggie Ellen Radford*, born 7 November 1919 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 20 December 1925 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.
  - h. *Grant Daniel Radford*, born 7 June 1922 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 15 November 1993 in Annis, Jefferson, Idaho. His obituary (*Idaho Falls Post Register*, 21 November 1993), lists no children or wife. Grant never married.
  - i. *Pearl Bernetta Radford*, born 27 April 1924 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 16 October 1924 in Ririe, Idaho.
  - j. *Virginia May Radford*, born 4 November 1926 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 26 December 1926 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.
  - k. *Delmas Dean Radford*, born 30 January 1928 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 3 August 1928 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.
  - l. *John Darwin Radford*, born 27 June 1930 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 16 June 1950 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He never married.
5. **Geneva Priscilla Radford**, the fifth child of Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel H Radford, was born 4 July 1889 in Freedom, Lincoln, Wyoming, and died 26 August 1954 in Oakland, Alameda, California. She married **Albert William Askew** on 4 September 1907 at her parents' home in Rudy (now Ririe), Jefferson, Idaho. Albert was born 12 January 1884 in Salt Lake City, Utah, son of George A.

Askew and Margaret Cufley. Albert died 6 January 1950 in Salinas, Monterey, California. Geneva and Albert were married the same day as her brother George in the home of their parents.

Geneva, Albert, and family were living in Butte, Silver Bow, Montana, in the 1920 census and in Salinas, Monterey, California, in the 1930 census.

The following children were listed under **Geneva and Albert Askew** in the 1930 census in Salinas, Monterey, California, updated by Ken Askew.

- a. *Ada Fontella Askew*, born 4 September 1909 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 14 August 1994 in Oakland, Alameda, California. She was married 1 August 1942 in Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California, to Walter Harry Yelland, born 13 Nov 1890 in Stockton, San Joaquin, California. He died 3 November 1982 in Stockton, California. He was previously married to Ruth Dyrer, then divorced, but he was Ada's first marriage. They had no children.
  - b. *Levon William Askew*, born 11 March 1913 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 12 May 1962 in Pacifica, San Mateo, California. He married first to Wilma Hodnott and later divorced after having two children. He married second to Georgia (*San Mateo Times*, page 4, May 14, 1962).
  - c. *Clarence Deverel Askew*, born 11 February 1926 in Salinas, Monterey, California, and died 16 March 1994 in Salinas, Monterey, California. His obituary states that he graduated from the California School for the Deaf in Berkeley. He married (an unidentified deaf woman) and was survived by a son, Steven (*Monterey County Herald* 17 March 1994).
  - d. *Kenneth Orville Askew*, born 24 October 1928 in Salinas, Monterey, California. He married Helen Eileen Hogen. She was born 1 March 1932 in Massachusetts and died 18 May 1993 in Santa Clara, California. She was the daughter of Mr. Hogan and Ann Lloyd.
  - e. *Grant Askew* was listed as a brother who survived Levon in 1982, living in Pacifica, San Mateo, California.
6. **Maude Ella Radford**, the sixth child of Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel H Radford, was born 11 May 1892 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 21 October 1960. She married on 6 June 1912 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Andrew Jackson Ross** (Figure 69). He was the son of Melvin Ross and Mary Ellen Hadden. He was born 26 April 1889 in Joseph, Sevier, Utah, and died 9 January 1950 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.

They lived in the Ririe, Idaho, area until about 1940 when they moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho. She was active in the LDS Church where she enjoyed working in the Relief Society (*obituary in Idaho Falls Post Register*, 22 October 1960).

The children of **Maude Radford and Andrew Ross** are (*information provided by Rebecca Freeman and the IGI*):





**Figure 69. Maude Ella Radford and Andrew Jackson Ross.** Back row: Maude Ella Radford Ross (1892-1960), Andrew Jackson Ross (1889-1950). Front: Cleo Levon Ross (1912-1992), Verla Verdine Ross (1921-1927). Photo, 1922.

- a. *Cleo Levon Ross*, born 29 October 1912 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 10 May 1992 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was married 15 January 1934 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to Celia Marie Jensen, daughter of Leslie William Jensen and Mabel Ann Peterson.
  - b. *Kenneth Dale Ross*, born 30 October 1918 in Perry, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 18 September 1923 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.
  - c. *Verla Verdine Ross*, born 9 December 1921 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 10 February 1927 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.
7. **Ethel Rebecca Radford** (Figure 70), the seventh child of Everal Hannah Morgan and Daniel H Radford, was born 11 June 1896 in Shelton, Bonneville, Idaho, and

died 20 March 1968 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho. She married first 29 April 1915 in Rigby, Jefferson, Idaho, to **Lawrence Leonard Scott**. He was born 1 August 1891 in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho, son of Hyrum Johnson Scott and Amelia Butterly Morgan. This couple later divorced. He died 16 November 1970.

**Ethel Radford and Lawrence Scott** had two daughters (*information provided by Rebecca Freeman, the Ancestral File, SS Death Index, Eastern Idaho Obituaries*):

- a. *Wanda Veretta Scott*, born 21 February 1916 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho, and died 4 December 1996 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho. She married 1 November 1932 to James Vernal Leavitt, who was born 2 September 1911 in Moreland, Bingham, Idaho, son of Vernal Leavitt and Annie Christiansen. He died 16 April 1988.



**Figure 70. Everal Hannah Radford, her daughters, and daughters-in-law.** Front row, L-R: Ethel Rebecca Radford Scott (1896-1968), Everal Hannah Morgan Radford (1862-1941), and Maud Ella Radford Ross (1892-1960). Back row, L-R: Martha Elizabeth Spracher Radford (1888-1969) (wife of George Henry Radford), Eva Amanda Teeples Radford (1886-1976) (wife of John Edward Radford), Clara Jane Woolsen Brown (1886-1966) (married to George William Brown), Mary Jane (Jennie) Carpenter Radford (1887-1962) (wife of James William Radford), Ada Melissa Morgan Radford (1886-1968) (wife of Daniel H (Dee) Radford). There are two of Everal Hannah's daughters and four of her daughters-in-law in the picture. Clara Brown was a cousin to Daniel H. Radford senior.

- b. *Wilma Irene Scott*, born 25 June 1918 in Rigby Jefferson, Idaho, and died 14 December 1996 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho. Wilma first married 3 July 1947 in Butte, Silver Bow, Montana, to Archie Glenn Heaton, son of George W. Heaton. Archie was born 27 November 1911 in Kimball, Bingham, Idaho, and died 4 June 1964 in Spanish Fork, Utah, Utah. Wilma second married 17 July 1965 in American Falls, Idaho, to Clifford Lester Davis, who was born 28 May 1911 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho, son of Nofear Davis and Signe Aurora Jacobson. He died 26 November 1977 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho.

**Ethel Radford** second married 12 May 1924 in Cokeville, Lincoln, Wyoming, to **Laurence Frank Johnson**. He was born 19 February 1878 and died 16 January 1929 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was the son of Charles Johnson and Carrie Larson.

**Ethel and Lawrence Johnson** had two daughters, surname Johnson:

- c. *Ethel June Johnson*, born 12 March 1925 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 5 May 1977. She married 14 February 1945 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho, to Leslie Peter Walton who was born 1 December 1919 in Moreland, Bingham, Idaho, son of Albert Henry Walton and Edith Mae Peterson. He died 2 March 2004 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
- d. *Nola Agnes Johnson*, born 26 November 1926 in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho, and died 19 September 2003 in Reno, Washoe, Nevada. She married 28 April 1946 Park N. Christiansen, who was born 26 August 1925 in Moreland, Bingham, Idaho, son of James Loran Christiansen and Thelma Louise Park. Nola and Park divorced in 1973. Park died 2 April 2003 in St. George, Washington, Utah (*Eastern Idaho Obituaries*).

**Ethel Radford** married third 12 July 1934 **Michael Jensen**, who died in 1946, and fourth she married 21 July 1949 **William K. Smith**. No children are on record for Ethel and her third and fourth husbands.





**Figure 71. Thomas Morgan (1821-1915).** This old portrait of Thomas was handed down through several lines of descendants and, while not the best portrait we have of Thomas, it is the one that was most widely circulated among his kin.

## Part 3

### DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS MORGAN AND NANCY JANE RADFORD

#### Chapter 14

#### **Nancy Jane Radford Ryset Morgan Second Wife of Thomas Morgan**

**Nancy Jane Radford** was born 14 June 1847 at Agency City, a migrant way station in what is now Wapello County, Iowa, and died 10 May 1900 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho. She was the daughter of John Whitlock Radford and Leah Smith (Ross). She was married first 14 January 1861 in Fillmore, Millard, Utah, to **Francis Frederick Ryset**, who was born about 1836 in Prussia (Germany) and died after 1880, probably in Wyoming. She was married second on 25 September 1871 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Thomas Morgan**.

*The following sketch was written by Leon Pitman in 2003.*

**Nancy Jane Radford** was the first child of seven born to John and Leah Smith Radford, though both of her parents had had previous marriages. Nancy Jane's Radford and Smith ancestors are well documented and extend back to frontier Tennessee, early Colonial Virginia, and North Carolina.

Her birth on the Mormon frontier in Iowa is symbolic of the frontier life which she lived. Her family and relatives became a large extended family who during her lifetime moved at least eight times, always to new frontier locations where creating a home involved the hard work of gathering raw materials to build primitive shelters and planting crops in lands never before plowed or irrigated. In 1850 her parents lived at Shirts Branch near present Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they grew crops for the Mormon migrations then under way. In the summer of 1850 the growing family crossed the plains and mountains to Utah, settling first in a fort in newly founded Provo, Utah. By 1855, when she was eight years old, her family helped found the new settlement of Fillmore, in desolate central Utah.

A few months before her 14th birthday, Nancy married Francis Frederick Ryset, a 24-year-old German immigrant pioneer living in Fillmore, Millard, Utah. He had come to Utah in 1857 with the U.S. Army, working as a civilian butcher. While in Fillmore, Nancy bore two children (Miranda Jane, 1862, and Sarah Ellen, 1864), but both had died

there by 1866. In the fall of 1866 the Rysets joined her parents in the newly founded settlement of Deseret, Utah. Her parents, her half siblings, and related families were among the founders of Deseret, where problems with the flooding Sevier River, threats of Indian attacks, and diseases created many hardships and deaths. While in Deseret, Nancy Jane bore three more children: Frank, Melvin, and Don Carlos.

In 1870 Nancy's husband left the family to look for work in Wyoming. Oral tradition among some Ryset descendants (Clayton Conn and Helen Simper) asserts that Mr. Ryset left his family with the understanding that he would return to get his family after he found secure work, but when his horse returned home without him, his family believed he might have been killed, perhaps by Indians.

After an absence of more than a year, 24-year-old Nancy, believing her husband was dead, married Thomas Morgan on 25 September 1871 in Salt Lake City, Utah, as his plural wife. He was 49, still living with first wife Ann and the youngest of their family of seven who ranged in age from 10 to 28. According to Ryset descendants, Nancy wanted to wait longer for her husband's return but, according to some Ryset descendants, she was instead "pressured" by her father and her bishop into this plural marriage to Thomas Morgan. Stories handed down by oral tradition cannot be verified, so we will never know what was in her mind and heart regarding her feelings about her marriage to Thomas Morgan. She nevertheless remained with Thomas for the rest of her life and bore a second family with him.

Nancy and the rest of her family could not have known at the time of her marriage to Thomas that her first husband had not died in 1870. Ten years after leaving his family, according to the 1880 census, Frank Ryset Sr. was living in Wyoming at Smiths Fork (now Cokeville, Lincoln County), with a new wife, Mary [Wilson], young child Addie, and stepdaughter. It is not known if Frank Ryset deliberately deserted Nancy and his family. Ryset descendants claim that he may have come back for her after a couple of years and, on discovering that she had remarried, went back to Wyoming where he later married Mary Wilson.

By 1873 two more of Nancy's remaining Ryset children died, leaving only one, Francis Daniel Ryset, to survive to adulthood. He became part of her Morgan family while living in Oak City and Leamington, Utah. He also married into the Morgan family and moved with the family to Wyoming and Idaho.

During her years in Deseret (1866-1868) the large Radford family and the Thomas and Ann Morgan family became close associates, resulting later in some marriages between their children and grandchildren. Thomas acquired land and built a home in Oak City where Nancy and her children lived separately from Thomas and his first wife and family. In 1872, Thomas and Ann moved to Leamington, about 12 miles from Oak City. Nancy remained in Oak City during most of the 1870s, in part to be close to where her sister Leah Ellen Lovell lived. But in about 1878 Nancy and her children moved to Leamington, where Thomas was living and where he built an adobe house for her. (This house still stands today on the Finlinson property where it is being used as a tool shed.) From 1872 to 1888 Nancy and Thomas had nine children, all but four of them born in Oak City. Only four of their Morgan children survived to adulthood.



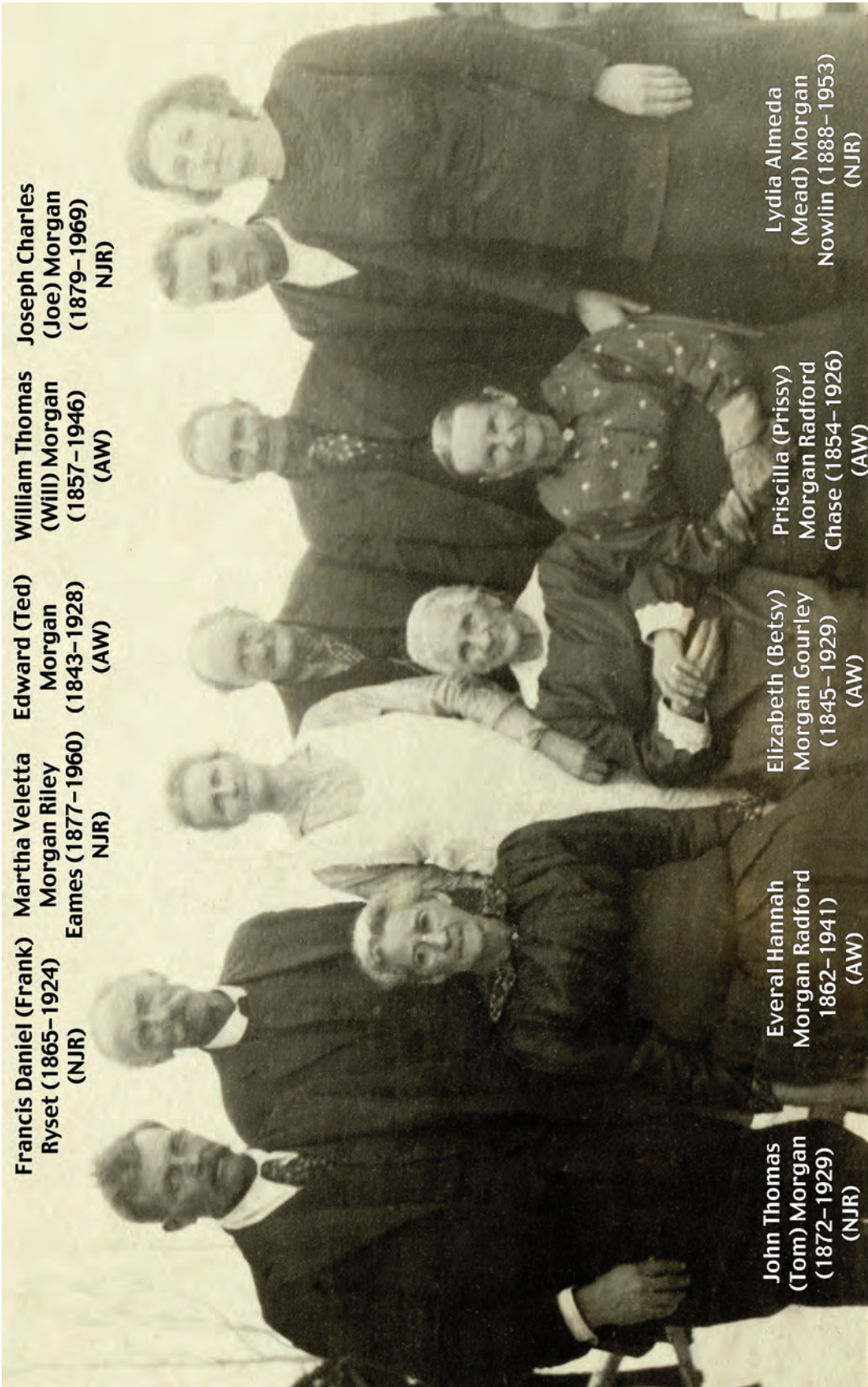
During this time in Millard County, Utah, Nancy became part of the large Morgan-Radford extended families who moved together three more times during her lifetime. In 1868 the Morgans and Radfords founded Oak City, Utah, about 15 miles from Deseret. In 1872, Morgans, moving again, became the principal founders of Leamington, Utah, starting all over, building new homes, farms, and irrigation canals. In 1888-89, most of the Morgan and Radford families left Utah and together founded the town in Star Valley, Wyoming, later known as Etna. It was here in December of 1889 that her father, John Whitlock Radford, died at the age of about 75. But her mother Leah, though quite feeble, lived through the cold winters of Wyoming, as did Nancy's three siblings and their families. Two years later, in 1891, all members of the Morgan and Radford families, who by this time numbered nearly 60 people, dissatisfied with Wyoming, built new homes in the frontier communities of Poplar and Shelton in Bonneville County, Idaho.

These family members moving to Idaho included, besides Nancy and Thomas Morgan and their children, most of the family of Thomas Morgan's first wife Ann, Nancy's son Frank Ryset and his wife Sarah Priscilla Morgan (Thomas' granddaughter), Nancy's sister Leah Ellen Radford Lovell and her large family, Nancy's sister Diana Rebecca Radford Woolsey and her large family, and Nancy's brother Daniel H Radford and his large family, Nancy's ailing mother Leah, as well as her half brother Richard (Dick) Ross and his family. Other family members moved to the area later.

Three years after moving to Idaho, in December 1894, Nancy's mother Leah died in Poplar at the age of 73. In August of 1895, Thomas' first wife Ann died in Poplar, at the age of about 73.

In May 1900, 53-year-old Nancy Jane Ryset Morgan died in Poplar of "nervous prostration," according to one source. She was survived by husband Thomas Morgan, six of his children by his first wife, and five of her own children. Of the 14 children she bore with two husbands, only five had survived to adulthood, the youngest of which (Lydia Almeda) was 12 years old when Nancy died. Her adult children had settled near her in Eastern Idaho. She was also survived by three full siblings, two half-sisters (daughters of her father's plural wife, Polly Stevens), and two half brothers (sons of her mother's first marriage to Andrew Jackson Ross).

Having lost nine of her 14 children to disease and early death, abandoned by her first husband whom she had married at age 13, living as a plural wife to her second husband (which may have been a marriage arranged by others), spending much of her life in primitive frontier shelters, and dying at the young age of 53, her life symbolizes the most difficult rigors of frontier life, the likes of which none of her descendants today will ever experience. Her son Joseph's description of her as a "woman of great faith" is perhaps an understatement of her long-suffering life of limited options. Undoubtedly she had faith and found comfort in her LDS religion, which promised a better life hereafter with her lost loved ones. No photograph is known to have ever been taken of her and no record of anything she said or thought is known to exist. But learning about the circumstances of her life will help us bond with her and appreciate her as our ancestor.



**Figure 72. Children of Thomas Morgan, Ann Watkins, and Nancy Jane Radford.** In this picture are all the living children of Thomas Morgan with his wives, Ann Watkins and Nancy Jane Radford, except for Frank Ryset (second from left, back row), who was a child of Nancy Jane Radford from her first marriage. Only James John Morgan (1860-1918), son of Thomas and Ann Morgan, is not present. (Unseen in this picture are the snow on the ground and a team of horses hitched to a sleigh in the background. The picture was probably taken in the winter of 1915-16, 1916-17, or 1917-18.)

Her five surviving children lived productive and useful lives, raising families who made valuable contributions to the communities where they settled. (*Sources on the above are all cited in the above "History of Thomas Morgan and his Families."*)

The surviving child of **Nancy Jane Radford** and first husband **Francis Frederick Rysert** (Ryset):

**Francis Daniel Ryset**, born 11 November 1866, Deseret, Utah, and died 24 February 1924 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 8 August 1888 in Leamington, Utah, to **Sarah Priscilla Morgan**, daughter of Edward Morgan and Sarah West (*for details and descendants, see above under Edward Morgan line of descent*).

### Children of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford

1. John Thomas Morgan, 1872
2. Estella Morgan, 1874 (died young)
3. Anna Jane Morgan, 1876 (died young)
4. Martha Veletta Morgan, 1877
5. Joseph Charles Morgan, 1879
6. James Richard Morgan, 1881 (died young)
7. Alva Alice Morgan, about 1883 (died young)
8. Olive Morgan, about 1886 (died young)
9. Lydia Almeda Morgan, 1888



## Chapter 15

### John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg

**John Thomas Morgan** (aka Tom), the first child of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford, was born 18 December 1872 in Oak City, Millard, Utah, and died 9 December 1929 in Lehi, Utah, Utah. He married 16 February 1898 in Logan, Cache, Utah, to **Josephine Fogg** (Figure 73), who was born 28 February 1877 in Hyrum, Cache, Utah, daughter of James Ezra Fogg and Josephine Smith. She died 22 August 1940 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho.

When Tom Morgan was a small child, Oak City, Utah, where he was born, was a new frontier community founded by his parents and other relatives. But in 1872 his father acquired land about 12 miles north of Oak City where he built a dugout and cabin on the south banks of the Sevier River. The new community called Leamington soon developed there as other residents moved in to take up farming. But even while his father was establishing a home and farm in Leamington, the young boy Tom remained for several years in Oak City where his mother maintained a home until perhaps the late 1870s. By 1880 Nancy Jane and her family moved to a new adobe house in Leamington on her husband's property adjacent to his original log cabin of 1872. Leamington is where Tom spent most of his growing up years.

Tom was 16 when his parents and family moved to Star Valley, Wyoming, to found the community now called Etna, and about 19 when they all moved to what is now Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, in 1891. As a young man he helped his father, cousins, and others clear new land for farming on his father's homestead in Poplar.

When Tom married Josephine Fogg, she was a schoolteacher. She continued to teach music while living in Poplar after she was married. She was crippled and "had an iron rod in her leg (brace-like) to help her walk, and a heavy raised heel."

*The following was extracted from a life sketch of their son, Thomas Ezra Morgan, written by Marciel Evelyn Morgan Strong.*

Tom, Josephine, and family remained in the Poplar area for about 25 years where they farmed. Much of that time Tom lived close to and worked with his brother Joseph Morgan. In about 1923 Tom and Josephine and most of their children moved to Lehi, Utah, Utah, where they remained for the rest of their lives. It appears that their oldest son Ezra and his young family were the first in the family to move to Lehi, Utah, where he got a seasonal job working in a



Figure 73. John Thomas Morgan (1872-1929) and Josephine Fogg Morgan (1877-1940). Wedding photo, 1898.

sugar mill. Tom and Josephine moved to Lehi shortly afterwards where Tom farmed and also worked in the sugar mill.

Tom died suddenly in Lehi of an illness on 9 December 1929.

*The following was taken from Josephine's obituary printed in the Lehi Free Press, 29 August 1940:*

Josephine Fogg was born in Hyrum, Cache, Utah, where she lived for about the first five years of her life until she moved with her parents to Rexburg, Madison, Idaho. She grew up in Rexburg, remaining there until she was married. She married John Thomas Morgan in the Logan, Utah, Temple. They made their home in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, for about 25 years. Mrs. Morgan's health was very poor about that time, and they sold their home and moved to Lehi, Utah [in about 1923], hoping the change would be a benefit to her. She has made her home in Lehi since that time.

Her husband died on 9 December 1929 [in Lehi] and was taken to Ririe, [Jefferson], Idaho, where he was buried in the Shelton Cemetery. Mrs. Morgan's health continued to fail after that time. On August 11, 1940, her family, being informed that her condition was very bad, came to see her. They held a family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Morgan [in Lehi] at whose home she was staying at that time. She had expressed the desire to go back to Ririe and stay with her children there near her old home for a while, so as they went back home they took her with them. She lived only eleven days after that, passing quietly away at 5:15 AM on August 22 [1940].

Although she was a crippled lady nearly all her life and her health poor for many years, she was a devoted and capable wife to her husband and became the mother of eight children, six of whom survive her.

She was organist of the Poplar Ward, Rigby Stake, for many years and was active in Relief Society and other church work as long as her health permitted. She lived a clean and honest life worthy of example to her children and she has the love and respect of all who know her. She is survived by her mother who is 83, six children, and 15 grandchildren.

**John Thomas and Josephine Morgan** had the following eight children (Figure 74) (*from the family records of Josephine Fogg Morgan*):

1. Viva Josephine Morgan, 1898
2. Thomas Ezra Morgan, 1901
3. Ida May Morgan, 1903
4. Joseph Lavier Morgan, 1905
5. Sylvia Morgan, 1909 (died young)
6. Cleo Annie Morgan, 1911 (twin)
7. Leo Morgan, 1911 (twin, died young)
8. Clyde LeVern Morgan, 1917



1. **Viva Josephine Morgan**, the first child of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg, was born 17 November 1898 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died in 31 May 1982 in Kimberly, Twin Falls, Idaho. She married 27 August 1919 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to **LaVern Dockstader**. LaVern was born 19 September 1897 in Marysville, Fremont, Idaho, the son of William Oscar Dockstader and Romanta Keller. He died 14 September 1977 in Twin Falls, Idaho. According to Viva Dockstader's obituary in the *Twin Falls Times News*, 2 June 1982, Viva and LaVern first settled in Ririe, Idaho, but moved to Twin Falls in 1941. LaVern Dockstader worked for the Ida Gem Dairymen in Jerome, Idaho, until he retired in 1962. (*Twin Falls Times News*, 15 September 1977.)



**Figure 74. Josephine Fogg Morgan and three of her daughters.** Left to right: Ida May Morgan Radford (1903-1941), Viva Josephine Morgan Dockstader (1898-1982), Josephine Fogg Morgan (1877-1940), Cleo Anna (Annie) Morgan Radford (1911-1982).

**Children of Josephine and LaVern Dockstader are:**

- a. **Dale LaVern Dockstader**, born 15 August 1921 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 20 January 1974 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 4 April 1942 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Ella Adamson, daughter of William Lewis Adamson and Ella Poole. She was born 21 May 1923 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She died 3 May 1959 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.

- b. *Jay Thomas Dockstader*, born 9 July 1924 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He married 22 June 1947 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Irene Drake. She was born 21 October 1929 in Harrisburg, Banner, Nebraska, and died 24 November 1978 in Boise, Ada, Idaho. She was the daughter of Herbert and Bertha Drake.
  - c. *Venice Viva Dockstader*, 5 September 1929 in Marysville, Fremont, Idaho, and died 24 December 2001 in Twin Falls, Idaho. She married first 25 October 1947 Robert Olan Sharp, born 19 June 1922 and died February 1985 in Twin Falls, Idaho. Venice had two children with him but later divorced. She married second 26 September 1980 Burl Dalglish and divorced him in 1987 (obituary in *Twin Falls Times News*, 27 December 2001).
2. **Thomas Ezra Morgan** (aka Ezra), the second child of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg, was born 7 February 1901 in Rexburg, Madison, Idaho, and died 10 August 1986 in American Fork, Utah, Utah. He married 10 January 1923 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Martha Grace Nielsen**, born 14 March 1903 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, daughter of Soren Peter Nielsen and Annie Charlotte Peterson (Figure 75). Martha died 1 October 1964 in Pleasant Grove, Utah, Utah. Both Ezra and Grace grew up in the Poplar-Ririe area of Eastern Idaho.



**Figure 75. Thomas Ezra Morgan and Martha Grace Nielsen Morgan family.** Back row, left to right: Ronald J. Morgan (1937-), Marciel Evelyn Morgan Strong (1935-), Donald A. Morgan (1937-). Front: Martha Grace Nielsen Morgan (1903-1964), Thomas Ezra Morgan (1901-1986).

*Extracted from information written by daughter, Marciel Evelyn Morgan Strong, and sons, Ronald and Donald Morgan.)*

After their marriage Ezra and Grace settled in Lehi, Utah, where he found work in a sugar factory and later bought a farm. After nearly 15 years of marriage, in about 1937, they adopted their first child, Ronald, and later, two more adopted children were added to their family.

During the Depression years in the 1930s, Ezra found work driving a truck for Utah Poultry. Sometimes he would take his two adopted sons on the trip with him "in a big truck to Delta, Utah."

His children all spoke with fondness of the summer vacation trips to visit relatives in Idaho or on camping trips to the canyons of southern Utah or to Yellowstone National Park. Ezra and Grace loved to travel and seem to manage to get away even when they were poor.

Grace died 1 October 1964 in Pleasant Grove, Utah, after a lingering illness. She was active in her LDS ward and was a family historian. Grace, with help of Ezra, was among the first to write a history of Thomas Morgan and his two wives, citing sources of information valuable to later researchers.

Thomas Ezra Morgan (aka Ezra), after the death of his first wife in 1964, married second 22 June 1970 to Evalyn Heward Gordon in Salt Lake City, Utah. He lived with her at his home in Lehi, Utah, until his death in 1986. He is buried next to his first wife in the Lehi, Utah, cemetery.

**Ezra and Grace Morgan** had no children of their own but they adopted three as follows (*information provided by Marciel Morgan Strong*):

- a. *Marciel Morgan* (adopted), born 6 November 1935 in Eagle, Cass, Nebraska, birth daughter of Charles Feur and Willa, but she was adopted as an infant by Ezra and Grace Morgan, and it is important to Marciel for records to show that she was sealed in LDS temple ceremonies to Ezra and Grace Morgan. She married Boyd Fawn Strong, with whom she had a family, and then divorced him in about 1994.
  - b. *Ronald J. Morgan* (twin), adopted, born 8 November 1937 in Tetonia, Teton, Idaho. He married Connie Mae Jolley. They lived for a few years in Magna, Utah, but later settled in Lehi and American Fork, Utah.
  - c. *Donald A. Morgan* (twin), adopted, born 8 November 1937 in Tetonia, Teton, Idaho. He married first Sherry Lee Poulsen. He married second Zelda. He lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, for many years but later settled in American Fork, Utah.
3. **Ida May Morgan** (Figure 76), the third child of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg, was born 8 July 1903 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died in Twin Falls, Idaho, 20 July 1941. She married 5 October 1922 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to **James LeRoy Radford** (aka Roy) (Figure 77). He was born 5 August 1901 in Rudy, Jefferson, Idaho, son of Edward Thomas Radford and Wealtha Permilla (Pearl) Wilbur.



The following was taken from Ida May's obituary in the *Rigby Star*, 24 July 1941:

Impressive funeral services were held in the Ririe Ward LDS church last Thursday afternoon for Mrs. Ida May Morgan Radford, of Twin Falls. Both Mr. and Mrs. Radford were born and raised near Ririe and have resided here until a few years ago, when they moved to Twin Falls, where he found employment in carpenter work. . . .

The speaker [former Bishop Richard Dutson] said Mrs. Radford was a kind-hearted friend and neighbor who always had a kind word and smile for all and bore her illness without complaint, and was a devoted wife and mother. . . . A large number attended the funeral to pay their respects to the

departed. Interment was held in the Ririe Cemetery, with Joseph Morgan of Dietrich dedicating the grave.

Her husband, James LeRoy Radford (Roy), tried farming after their marriage but later was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad, building and repairing bridges. In 1938 Roy and Ida moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, where Roy obtained employment as a carpenter and later as a self-employed general contractor. In Twin Falls he built a two-story house with a basement. At that time it was one of the biggest homes in the Twin Falls area. Ida May got to live in this home for only a few months before she passed away, leaving Roy with a family of five children, the youngest only two years old at the time.



**Figure 76.** Ida May Morgan Radford (1903-1941) and baby Vonda Radford. Photo, 1940. Ida May was a granddaughter of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford who married LeRoy Radford, a great grandson of John Whitlock Radford.

Roy second married his late brother Frank Radford's widow, Pearl Tyler Radford (Figure 78), of Ucon, Idaho. She brought four sons to his family, immediately making a family of nine. A few years later Roy and Pearl had a son of their own, Keith Tyler Radford, born 15 May 1946, tenth in the family.

In 1950 Roy and Pearl moved to Arco, Butte, Idaho.

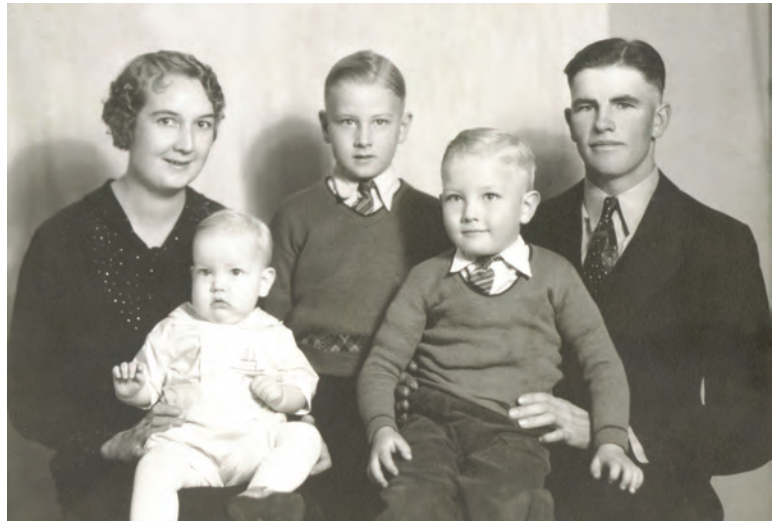
James LeRoy Radford's obituary is printed in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 13 March 1973.

Ida May and James LeRoy had the following children (*information provided by Vonda Byington*):

- a. *Dorsel LeRoy Radford*, born 24 June 1924 in Lehi, Utah, Utah, and died 28 May 1998 in Grantsville, Tooele, Utah. He married first 1 September 1946, Thelma Louise Worley, daughter of Walter Worley. He married second 31 August 1963 to Artie Estella Vanderhoof, who was born 13 March 1919 in Sparks, Washoe, Nevada, daughter of Giles Edgar Vanderhoof and Artie Wilson.
- b. *Pearl Josephine Radford*, born 3 April 1926 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. She married 5 January 1947 to Jerry Alvis Davis, son of Joseph Ben Davis and Ada Alice Landreth.
- c. *May Elaine Radford*, born 16 January 1928 in Ririe, Idaho, and died 16 February 1928.
- d. *Vee Thomas Radford*, born 11 June 1929 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 15 May



**Figure 77.** James LeRoy (Roy) Radford (1901-1973) and his second wife, Elzina Pearl Tyler Radford (1907-1982).



**Figure 78.** Left is Elzina Pearl Tyler Radford when she was first married to Franklin King (Frank) Radford (1904-1940), who is on the right. The children are Franklin Dean, standing between Pearl and Frank, Pearl is holding Daniel Jay, and Frank is holding Lyal Edward. Roy and Frank Radford were great grandsons of both John Whitlock Radford and Thomas Morgan.

1954 to Eva May Winward. She was born 17 March 1937 in Burley, Cassia, Idaho, daughter of Claude Winward and Dora Hazel Russell.

- e. *Gerald Norman Radford*, born 19 December 1931 in Ririe, Jefferson, Idaho. He married 21 June 1964 to Clara Marie Oakey. She was born 20 January 1941 in Reno, Washoe, Nevada, daughter of Steward LeRoy Oakey and Artie Estella Vanderhoof.
- f. *Vonda Rae Radford*, born 24 July 1939 in Twin Falls, Idaho. She married 8 November 1957 to Rodney L. Byington, who was born 14 May 1936 in Boise, Ada, Idaho, son of Joseph Burkhart Byington and Alice Matilda Tyler.

4. **Joseph Lavier Morgan** (aka Lavier), the fourth child of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg, was born 25 October 1905 in Labelle, Jefferson, Idaho, and died in Twin Falls, Idaho, 4 June 1979. He married **Alverda Martha Rhoades**, 1 June 1926 in Idaho Falls (Figure 79). She was born 17 August 1907 in Teton, Madison, Idaho, and died 3 August 2001 in Twin Falls, Idaho. She was the daughter of LeRoy Everett Rhoades and Christianna Wann Shelton.

*The life sketch below was extracted from a life history of Joseph Lavier, written by daughter Marva Marsh.*

Joseph Lavier Morgan was the fourth child born to Josephine Fogg and John Thomas Morgan on October 25, 1905, at Labelle, Idaho. He was named for his uncle Joseph Morgan. . . . He was delivered by a midwife at home and a log cabin was his first home. The family later moved to Poplar, Idaho.

While a child in Poplar, he rode horses or walked more than two miles to school. In winter he skated on the Anderson Canal. Each Christmas he asked for a new pair of skates as his others were worn out. He herded cows on the [Snake] River bottom, swam in the Anderson canal and at Heise Hot Springs. His father farmed 160 acres of land, raising mainly hay and grain. Uncle Joe Morgan baptized him a member of the Latter-day Saints church when he was 8 years old. This took place at the Anderson Canal. His youth was spent on ranches around Poplar and then [in about 1923] his parents and family moved to Lehi, Utah, Utah.

On July 4, 1925, he met Alverda Rhoades. They were married 10 months later, in June 1926 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. After they were married, Joseph worked on the section gang for the Union Pacific Railroad. This work required him to move occasionally. On March 8, 1927, a little girl who they named Ellen Lathel was born to them in Cokeville, Lincoln, Wyoming.

After several years working for the railroad, they moved back to Idaho Falls, where Joseph worked a short time for his uncle, Alvin Cole, on a ranch in Milo, Bonneville, Idaho. Following that job, they went to Ririe where Joseph again worked on the railroad.

Joyce was born Christmas Eve 1928 in Idaho Falls. Marva was born September 9, 1930, in Idaho Falls. Shortly thereafter, Grandma Morgan became





**Figure 79. Joseph Lavier Morgan and Alverda Rhoades Morgan family.** Back row: Alverda (Verda) Rhoades Morgan (1907-2001), Joseph Lavier Morgan (1905-1979). Front, left to right: Carol Joyce Morgan Forza Tully (1928-), Ellen Lathel Morgan Sharp (1927-), Marva DeEsta Morgan Marsh (1930-).

very ill and had to have an emergency appendectomy, and she remained ill for quite some time.

In 1932 they moved to Ririe, where he drove a truck for his cousin Eldon Terrell, hauling grain, hay, and coal back from the Price coal mine in Utah. He had to spend a lot of time away from home and his family missed him very much.

In the spring of 1941, they moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, and started working for Roy Radford [James LeRoy], his brother-in-law, doing construction work. In 1947 Joseph went to work for Western Condenser in Twin Falls, a facility which condensed whey into powder. In the same year they bought one-half an acre south of Twin Falls where he built a basement, blasting out rocks and moving them by hand. In 1957 they finished the upper part of the house.

In 1950 they made a temporary move to Arco, Idaho, to work on construction work at the AEC [Atomic Energy Commission] plant. He worked in construction in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada.

In November 1968 he was in Battle Mountain, Nevada, when he broke his leg. He spent two months there, then was brought home and had to spend two more months in bed before the cast was removed. After his recovery, he did carpenter jobs around Twin Falls. This he continued to do until his health failed.

In 1978 he wanted his children and grandchildren to see some of his handiwork, so we all went to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he showed us a cinderblock house with a huge stone fireplace which he had helped to build with his brother Clyde.

He loved to fish and he enjoyed going with his family and friends on such outings. Our grandfather had a great sense of humor. He gave readings and told stories at Christmas time or any other time we were together. Our favorite reading was "The Chinese Boy and The Bumble Bee." He went through comical actions while giving it.

Grandpa was never known to criticize other people. He never complained of hard times or the pain which he had to bear even though he had several surgeries and was very ill these past few years. He passed away June 4, 1979, at Magic Valley Memorial Hospital in Twin Falls.

Alverda died 3 August 2001 in Twin Falls, Idaho, at age 93. Her obituary in the *Twin Falls Times*, 4 August 2001, states that "she grew up in Menan and Roberts, Idaho . . . was an active member of the Twin Falls LDS church, especially the Relief Society and Primary. She was also a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers through her mother. She found joy in needlework and baseball as well as family activities. She was survived by three daughters, 10 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 19 great-great-grandchildren.

The children of **Joseph and Alverda Morgan** are (*Joseph Morgan obituary in Twin Falls Times*, 7 June 1979, and information provided by Marva Marsh):

- a. *Ellen Lathel Morgan*, born 8 March 1927 in Cokeville, Lincoln, Wyoming. She married 31 March 1944 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Madison Hayes, who was born 23 November 1918 in Humphreys, Sullivan, Missouri, son of Clarence Hayes and Bessie Mae Sharp. They settled in Twin Falls, Idaho, where they had two children.
- b. *Carol Joyce Morgan*, born 24 December 1928 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married first 24 December 1944 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to James Anthony Forza, who was born 2 September 1923 in Tacoma, Pierce, Washington, son of George Forza. They had three children. She later divorced James and was married second 19 April 1958 in Twin Falls to Allen Nathaniel Tully, who was born 5 May 1922 in Arkansas, son of Pope Perry Tully and Lottie Bloomer. Allen died 4 September 1979 in Twin Falls, Idaho. Carol and Allen had one child.
- c. *Marva DeEsta Morgan*, born 9 September 1930 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 23 January 1949 in Twin Falls to Milford Marsh, who was born 1 June 1927 in Mutual, Woodward, Oklahoma, the son of Henry Isaac Marsh and Nettie Pearl Jones. They settled in Twin Falls, Idaho, where they had four children.

5. **Sylvia Morgan**, born 8 August 1909 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died of an infectious disease 14 October 1909 in Poplar.
6. **Cleo Annie Morgan** (twin), the sixth child of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg, was born 10 October 1911 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 4 November 1982 in Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado, of a lingering illness. She married 8 June 1936 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Ako Oren Radford** (Figure 80), son of Edward Thomas Radford and Wealtha Permillia (Pearl) Wilbur. He was born 12 October 1910 in Rudy (now Ririe), Jefferson, Idaho, and died 20 September 1977 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Cleo's obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 6 November 1982, states, "They lived in Ririe, Idaho, following their marriage, where they were engaged in farming until 1942 when her husband entered construction work."

*The following was provided by daughter, Sharon Firkins.*

In 1946 the family moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, where they bought 2-1/2 acres of land, part of an old farm with house and barn. As Ako continued working in construction, he also grew alfalfa to sell, and raised rabbits which were more of a hobby than a business. Over the next three years he won many trophies and ribbons at the county fair with his prize rabbits.

In 1952 they moved back to Idaho Falls, where they remained until 1963. Ako was a field superintendent on construction jobs and was a millwright. By the end of his career he had not only supervised the construction of schools, stores, and other buildings in cities, but had also contributed to many large and varied projects such as the government nuclear site in 1942 in Hanford, Washington; the INNEL Reactor site near Arco, Idaho; the Palisades Dam in Eastern Idaho; a missile site in Idaho; the Loveland Tunnel Pass in Colorado; and the first coal- generated power plant in Huntington, Utah."

Cleo was an active member of the LDS church. She was survived by two daughters, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Ako's obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 21 September 1977 reports that he died in Idaho Falls 20 September 1977 after a lingering illness.

**Cleo and Ako Radford** had the following children (*from Sharon Firkin's records*):

- a. *Vala Elaine Radford*, born 14 January 1937 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, and died in October 1992 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She married first 24 May 1953 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to David Osro Peterson. She married second in about 1962 to Leland G. Smith. She married third to John Morin and settled in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- b. *Sharon Radford*, born 18 December 1939 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married in December 1960 in Boise, Ada, Idaho, to Gerald LeRoy Firkins, son of Mr. Firkins and Vardella Hughes. Sharon and Gerald divorced in 1974.



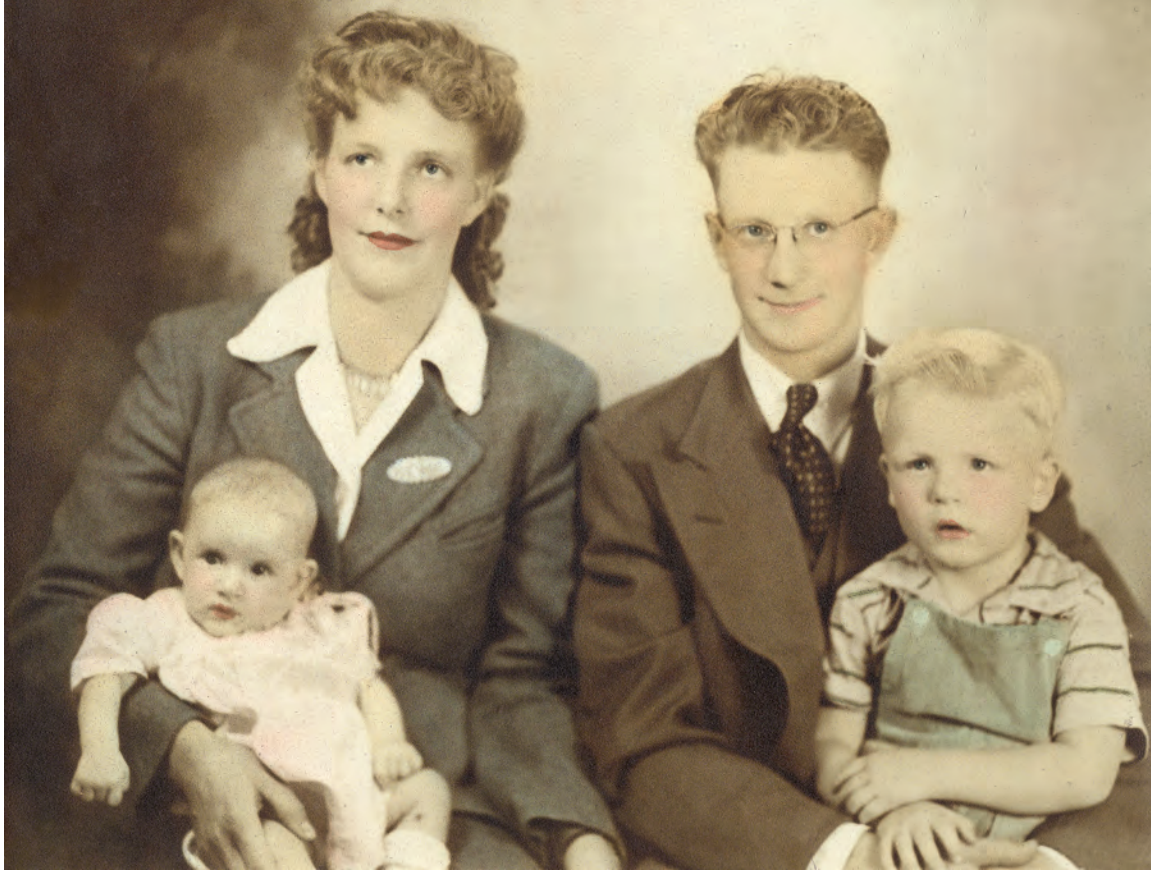


**Figure 80. Cleo Annie Morgan Radford and Ako Oren Radford family.** Back row: Ako Oren Radford (1910-1977), Cleo Annie Morgan Radford (1911-1982). Front: Sharon Radford (1939-), Vala Elaine Radford (1937-1992).

7. **Leo Morgan** (twin) was born 10 October 1911 in Poplar and died 6 September 1912 in Poplar. He was a twin brother of Cleo.
8. **Clyde LeVern Morgan**, the eighth child of John Thomas Morgan and Josephine Fogg, was born 25 September 1917 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 5 February 1988 in Twin Falls, Idaho. He married **Virginia Rowley** in 1939 in Provo, Utah (Figure 81). She was born 11 December 1920 in American Fork, Utah, the daughter of Albin Rowley and Delilah Whipple. She died 10 November 1995 in Twin Falls, Idaho.

From Clyde Morgan's obituary in the *Twin Falls Times News*, 6 February 1988, we read:

Clyde was born in Poplar, Idaho, 25 September 1917, but when he was a small boy of about 4 or 5 his family moved to Lehi, Utah, where he attended school. He married Virginia Rowley in Provo, Utah, on 20 June 1939. They moved to Twin Falls around 1945 where they had resided since. He was a carpenter most of his life. He worked for Haines Auto Electric in Twin Falls from 1969 until ill health forced his retirement in 1974. He was a member of the LDS church. He was survived by his wife, four sons, and three daughters.



**Figure 81.** Clyde LeVern Morgan (1917-1988) and Virginia Rowley Morgan (1920-1995). Children: Neva Karen Morgan (1944-), John Thomas Morgan (1942-).

*The following was extracted from Virginia's obituary in the Twin Falls Times News on 12 November 1995.*

Virginia Rowley Morgan was raised and educated in American Fork, Utah, and on 20 June 1939 she married Clyde Morgan in Provo, Utah. She was a member of the LDS church, worked at the Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center, and played with the band, BJ & Friends.

Her obituary reported her death on 10 November 1995 at age 74. She was survived by four sons, three daughters, 16 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. Her son, Bishop Albert Morgan, conducted her funeral services.

The children of **Clyde and Virginia Morgan** are:

- a. *John Thomas Morgan*, born 21 January 1942 in Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho. He married 4 June 1977 in North Highlands, Sacramento, California, to Christine Ann Cosgrove. She was born 2 May 1949 in Auburn, Placer, California, daughter of Lawrence E. Cosgrove and Darlene M. Carner.

- b. *Neva Karen Morgan*, born 25 May 1944 in Orem, Utah, Utah. She married 14 October 1961 to Ross McNurlin. She married second 3 May 1971 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Leonard Alan Vauk. Leonard was born 11 January 1937 in Nampa, Canyon, Idaho, and died 18 June 2004 in Twin Falls, Idaho. He was the son of Oscar Vauk and Dorothy Sweet.
- c. *Albert LaVern Morgan*, born 18 June 1945 in Orem, Utah, Utah. He married 16 January 1965 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Tamera Maxine Richardson, who was born 28 December 1946 in Wendell, Gooding, Idaho, daughter of Arthur Richardson and Iola Barker.
- d. *Donald Bruce Morgan*, born 23 August 1947 in Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho. He married 9 June 1965 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Gloria Darlene Bolley, born 11 April 1947 in Pineville, McDonald, Missouri, daughter of Calvin Duffie Bolley and Vina Catherine Gilchrest.
- e. *Delilah Morgan*, born 8 November 1948 in Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho. She married first 20 January 1968 in Twin Falls, Idaho, to John W. Thompson. She married second 15 June 1970 in Elko, Elko, Nevada, to Shannon Lee Guest, born 16 January 1946 in Bruce, Calhoun, Mississippi, son of Aubrey Guest and Anna Lee Parker.
- f. *Clyde Neil Morgan*, born 18 January 1954 in Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho. He married 19 August 1978 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, to Joyce Suzanne Heider, born 11 March 1948 in Portland, Oregon, daughter of Walter Emil Heider and Clara Bittner.
- g. *Virginia RaeNae Morgan*, born 3 September 1955 in Twin Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho. She married 3 November 1972 in Elko, Elko, Nevada, to Marles Delane (Rocky) Reece, born 26 March 1952 in Twin Falls, Idaho, son of Raymond Alec Mansfield Reece and Georgia Charleen Cardwell.



## Chapter 16

### Martha Veletta Morgan Riley Eames

**Martha Veletta Morgan** (Figure 82), the fourth child of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford, was born 6 October 1877 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 9 December 1960 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married first 27 February 1895 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to **John Henry Riley** (Figure 19, page 56), who was born 5 December 1848 in Hagerstown, Washington, Maryland. John died 13 February 1906 in Weiser, Washington, Idaho. Martha had two children with John Riley. Martha married second 13 March 1907 to **Samuel Thomas Eames**, who was born 10 March 1870 in Plain City, Weber, Utah, son of John Eames and Hannah Jenkins (Figures 83, 84). Thomas died 7 February 1950 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. Martha had three children with Sam Eames.

*The following was taken from "Samuel Thomas and Martha Morgan Eames" by their daughter Ruth Hansen. Published in The Pioneer History and Development of the Milo Ward, 1880 to 1960, Idaho Falls, 1960, pages 107-109.*

**Martha Morgan Riley Eames** was born October 6, 1877, at Leamington, Millard, Utah. Her parents were Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford. Her father had emigrated to Utah from England . . . and her mother and father both had crossed the Plains with the pioneers.

When Martha was eleven years old, her family left Leamington and emigrated to Star Valley, Wyoming, where Etna is now. The snow that winter was over five feet deep on the level. Martha remembers how the families used to get in their sleighs and go to the home of Thomas Lee, who was the schoolteacher. They would dance until about midnight, then have supper. Venison was usually one of the main things served. Mrs. Lee would then make beds for the women all over the house, but the men stayed up and talked until morning when they would go home. They had staked out willows by the side of the roads, so they could follow them in the deep snow.

From Star Valley the family moved over many high mountains until they reached the brow of the hill overshadowing the eastern portion of the Snake River Valley. There was little to be seen then except the river with its beautiful green banks and the hue of the purple sage, dotted here and there with the log cabins of the early pioneers. This was in the spring of 1891, and Thomas Morgan homesteaded a 160-acre tract in the east end of the valley at Poplar.

It was here that Martha Morgan met and later married John H. Riley on February 27, 1895. Two children were born to this union, namely Julia and

Mary. After about five years of marriage, John Riley became ill with typhoid fever and pneumonia. He never fully recovered, and after a lingering illness [tuberculosis] of about six years, he passed away on February 10, 1906, in Weiser, Washington, Idaho.

Martha, now a widow with two children, sought employment and was soon engaged as a cook on a farm near Ucon, Idaho [about 11 miles northeast of Idaho Falls]. There she met the foreman of the ranch, Samuel Thomas Eames,



**Figure 82.** Left: Martha Veletta Morgan Riley Eames (1877-1960) and her sister Lydia Almeda Morgan Nowlin (1888-1954).

who was himself a widower with two children. Romance blossomed and on March 3, 1907, these two were wed.

Samuel Thomas Eames was born March 10, 1870, at Plain City, Weber, Utah. His parents were John Samuel Eames and Hannah Jenkins. John Samuel and Hannah Eames emigrated from England to Utah. . . . They arrived in Plain City, Utah, in 1868 with their large family of eleven children. Just before Samuel



**Figure 83.** Martha Veletta Morgan Riley Eames (1877-1960) and husband Samuel Thomas Eames (1870-1950). Wedding photo March 1907.



Thomas was born, his father died with diphtheria. So Samuel never knew his father.

In the winter of 1884, Hannah Jenkins Eames with her family moved to Menan [Jefferson], Idaho. Samuel was a young boy of about fourteen years of age. While at Menan, he helped build the first canal there. Later he went to work for his brother John, who had homesteaded on Moody Creek. There he met and married Emmaline Riggs Jones of Teton, Idaho, on December 20, 1894. After her death [on April 14, 1904], Samuel moved to Willow Creek [Milo], where he worked as foreman of ranches belonging to R. L. Bybee and Jabus Nowlin [father-in-law of Martha's sister], and later for the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. It was while here that he met and married Martha Morgan Riley.

Martha and Samuel Eames then purchased a farm in Milo [about 15 miles northeast of Idaho Falls] and went to live there in November 1907. [While] there, three children were born, namely Ruth, Elaine, and Morgan. There also they worked hard on their own farm and in the community. Martha was chosen to work in the [LDS] Primary association. Samuel was made president of the [LDS] Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. Later, Martha was made president of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association. . . . A dramatic company was organized and several plays were staged. A ball team was organized. Holidays were celebrated and many dances were held in the recreation hall of the old church.

The young girls would canvas the ward and get a cup of sugar from most homes, from which candy was made; also homemade ice cream and lemonade. These were sold at the refreshment stand to defray expenses.

Samuel Eames also worked as president of the fourth [LDS] Elders quorum and as Sunday School and ward teacher. Samuel was an outstanding ball player. He also became a member of the school board.

In 1917 Martha was sustained as first counselor to Julia Huffaker in the Relief Society and in 1921 was made president. She was never too busy to leave her work to visit the sick and needy. In 1924 the Eames moved from Milo. They resided one year at Taylorville [southeast of Idaho Falls], then moved to Osgood, Idaho [five miles north of Idaho Falls], where they resided until the death of Samuel on February 7, 1950."

*LaDean Marshall, a granddaughter, compiled in 1951 and 1952 other details of Martha's life taken from family records, some from the words of Martha herself.*

Martha Veletta Morgan was born 6 October 1877, at Leamington, Millard County, Utah. Her parents were Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford Morgan. The house [Martha was born in] was of adobe. No doctor or midwife was present, but a woman who was the wife of Joseph Smith's [former] bodyguard cared for grandmother [Nancy Jane Radford Morgan], and mother's name Martha was after the above mentioned, whose name was Martha Green. . . . At this time grandfather [Thomas] Morgan had other

children [by his other wife, Ann Watkins]. The two families did not live together, . . . the children by Ann were older and married when mother [Martha] was born.

They lived in Leamington, where they had access to school and church until Martha was eleven years old. They left [Leamington] on 19 May 1889 and arrived in Salt River Valley, now called Star Valley [Wyoming] (where Etna, Wyoming, is now) on 19 June 1889. They traveled in two wagons and a good new two-seated buggy. The next year [1890] they tried raising potatoes and garden, but there were just six weeks without a hard frost. They stayed until the spring of 1891.

*Writing about Martha's first husband John Riley, LaDean Marshall says:*

After about five years of married life [to John Riley], John became ill with typhoid fever and pneumonia. The most prominent farmers of the area had taken [purchased] stock in the first creamery in the valley. One day John Riley and Bishop David Ririe had been out visiting the stockholders to see what they could do about the creamery, which was going bankrupt. John came home ill on this particular night and never fully recovered. His condition later developed into tuberculosis, and he was ill for six years before he died.

John brought some of the first thoroughbred sheep to the Poplar section and during the Grover Cleveland administration the sheep were sold for \$1.50 per head and the wool for five cents per pound. Then he purchased 440 acres of land [near Poplar], and he [with others] built a canal with which to water his land. The headgate of this canal was about three miles above the present Anderson headgate and was [is] called the Riley Ditch.

John Riley died in Weiser, Washington, Idaho, 10 February 1906, and was buried there. After his death, the mother and two girls came back to Poplar and she was soon engaged as a cook on the farm where she met Samuel T. Eames, who was foreman of the ranch. This ranch was located at Ucon.

*Writing after her grandmother Martha's death in 1960, LaDean Marshall provides additional details of Martha and Sam Eames' lives.*

Martha and Sam moved to Osgood in 1925. To you who have lived here in recent years, we say, you can't remember what Osgood was like then—the wind—and worse the dust—no gravel or paved roads, no power, nor water, few trees or grass or greenery to hold down the terra firma once the wind had its way. Then there was the backbreaking thinning [sugar beet thinning with a hoe]. But Sam and Martha thrived best on hard work and so they were happy.

Martha did not leave Relief Society behind when she came to Osgood. In 1925 she was sustained as counselor and in 1928 was made president. From then until 1939 she met the needs and was at the call of all who needed her.

*From Martha's own history LaDean Marshall quotes:*

I was interested in all phases of my [Relief Society] work. My outstanding work was among the sick and I cherish many memories of different experiences I had among them.

*Marshall further states:*

We have no count of the babies Grandma Eames brought into the world. [Daughter] Julia says Martha raised a dozen children besides her own. Many she took care of when their mother was sick. And [daughter] Elaine said they would sometimes get so attached to these children, they would hate to see them return to their homes.

Countless are the burial clothes she has made in her useful life and for years the girls said she made the brides' clothes in their ward and always gave them a quilt for a wedding present. She never did just nothing, either reading, sewing, or busy with her hands, and this, I am sure, accounts for her useful life. She had even made her own clothes to be buried in, including the dress. What a noble spirit and rich mind she possessed.

An obituary of Martha was printed in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 9 December 1960.

Martha and Samuel raised eight children who survived to adulthood (Figure 84). The names of **Martha Morgan** and first husband **John Riley**'s children are:

1. **Julia Belle Riley**, born 25 April 1896 at Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 6 October 1981 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married **Warren Oscar Shelton**, 29 May 1922, in Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho. He was born 25 December 1893 in Cameron, Clinton, Missouri, the son of Newton Shelton and Arzula Moore. Warren died 19 June 1956 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho.

According to her obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 7 October 1981, she attended nursing school in Idaho Falls and worked at a local hospital. After her marriage they first settled in Springfield and at Divide, Silver Bow, Montana. They later lived in Eureka, California; Palisade, Nevada; and Butte, Montana while Mr. Shelton worked with the railroad. They moved to Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho in 1932, where they farmed until her husband's death in 1956.

The children of **Julia Belle Riley and Warren Shelton** are (*from Martha Morgan's records, updated by Debbie Shelton*):

- a. *Warren Newton Shelton* (twin), born 23 March 1923 in Milo, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 20 January 1951 in Evanston, Uinta, Wyoming, to Lorna Joyce Taysom, daughter of Ray Leland Taysom and Reoma Leta Price. She was born 20 January 1932 in Moreland, Bingham, Idaho, and died of cancer 19 July 2004 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho.
- b. *Evelyn Maurine Shelton* (twin), born 23 March 1923 in Milo, Bonneville, Idaho, died 15 August 1990 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She never married.





**Figure 84. Martha Veletta Morgan Riley Eames and Samuel Thomas Eames family.** Standing, left to right: Bertha Eames (1895-1948), Dorothy Eames Black (1918-), Verna Elaine Eames Nickell (1915-2001), Hannah Ruth Eames (1908-), Julia Belle Riley Shelton (1896-1981). Sitting: Samuel Thomas Eames (1870-1950), Martha Veletta Morgan Riley Eames (1877-1960). Photo, 1940s.

- c. *Riley Lee Shelton*, born 19 June 1925 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 17 November 1944 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Lois Empey, born 23 January 1926 in Ammon, Bonneville, Idaho. She is the daughter of Alonzo Ernest Empey and Olive Addeline Mitchell.
  - d. *Geraldine Shelton*, born 18 January 1942 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 10 August 1958 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. She never married.
2. **Mary Etta Riley**, the second child of Martha Morgan and John Riley, was born 2 September 1897 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho. She died 16 June 1926, unmarried. Mary had a child out of wedlock, reared as a daughter by Martha and Sam Eames. Her name was:
    - a. *Dorothy Riley Eames*, born 13 June 1918 in Milo, Bonneville, Idaho, daughter of Mary Etta Riley and an unidentified father. Dorothy married 12 June 1940 to Farrell Thomas Black, born 11 August 1915 in Rupert, Minidoka, Idaho, son of Daniel E. Black and Lavina Paskett (*Rupert, Second Ward, LDS Membership Records*).

The names of the children of **Martha Morgan and Samuel Eames** are (*from records of Martha Morgan Eames*):

3. **Hannah Ruth Eames**, the third child of Martha Morgan and her first with husband Samuel Eames was born 17 August 1908, at Milo, Bonneville, Idaho. Ruth married **J Lavon Hansen**, 5 June 1930 in Salt Lake City, Utah (Figure 85). He was born 15 September 1905 in Elwood, Box Elder, Utah, the son of Lester Lavon Hansen and Leticia Hunsaker. J Lavon Hansen died 13 September 1960 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, of a brief illness. Ruth married second 4 June 1974 in Idaho Falls,



**Figure 85. Hannah Ruth Eames Hansen and J Lavon Hansen family.** Standing, rear: Gary West Hansen (1931-). Front, left to right: Sharon Ruth Hansen (1941-), J. Lavon Hansen (1905-1960), Hannah Ruth Eames Hansen (1908-), Jan Kent Hansen (1936-).

Idaho, to **Marvin Robert Harper** and lived with him in Rose, Bingham, Idaho, until he died 12 March 1993.

According to Mr. Hansen's obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 14 September 1960, Ruth and her husband lived in several communities in Eastern Idaho where he was a schoolteacher. These include Labelle, Teton City, Wilford, Edmunds, and Parker. But they lived the longest in St. Anthony, Fremont County, where he taught school until his death at age 55.

Writing her own life sketch, Ruth says:

"I attended Milo School [in Bonneville County, Idaho], and upon graduation from the eighth grade there I attended Ricks College to receive my teacher's certificate, which I obtained there in 1927. I taught schools for much of the rest of my life, namely in Plano, Osgood, Milo, Oakland Valley,

Ucon, Labelle, and St. Anthony, to name a few. I taught a total of 41 years until I retired at age 66 in 1974.”

In addition to teaching school Ruth was very active in church and community affairs. In her life sketch she discussed her LDS church activities in Primary, Young Women’s MIA, Relief Society, ward chorister and choir director. She had a special interest in music. She held these church positions in the various communities where she and her husband lived in Eastern Idaho.

After the death of her second husband in 1993, Ruth moved to St. Anthony, Fremont, Idaho, where she had previously lived, to be near two of her children living in that area.

Ruth Hansen Harper is still living at the time of this writing, one of only two grandchildren of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford living in 2004.

Writing of his childhood in 2004, their child Gary Hansen said:

In 1935 my parents moved to Labelle, Idaho . . . where we lived on a 60-acre farm with no electricity or indoor plumbing at first. My parents were teachers at the local two-room school. Dad was the principal and taught grades 5 through 8. Mother taught grades 1 through 4. We went to church in a small, wooden frame chapel with one large room. I have fond memories of old Labelle. The school and church were the social centers of the community. . . . Beginning in 1942 we moved from Labelle [to other places for a short time] but eventually settled in St. Anthony where I finished all four years of high school.

The children of **Hannah Ruth Eames and J Lavon Hansen** are (*from records of J Lavon and Ruth Hansen*):

- a. *Gary West Hansen*, born 6 September 1931 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 21 March 1957 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Marylyn Davis. She was born 3 August 1932 in Provo, Utah, daughter of Owen Marion Davis and Magdalene Wilhelmina (Lena) Hollermann. She was a high school teacher. Gary worked for the Federal government for 25 years, mostly for the Food and Drug Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation. They adopted two children (*Gary Hansen life sketch, 2004*).
- b. *Jan Kent Hansen*, born 6 January 1936 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. He married 10 July 1959 to Judith Georgene LaStuka. She is the daughter of Frank LaStuka and Dera George of Cleveland, Ohio.
- c. *Sharon Ruth Hansen*, born 20 March 1941 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 13 June 1962 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Frank Brent Blake, who was born 25 October 1939 in Salt Lake City, Utah, son of Frank Keith Blake and Beth Reynolds. They settled in St. Anthony, Idaho, in 1960. Sharon taught school for 32 years in Eastern Idaho and retired in 2003. They had five children (*Sharon Hansen Blake life sketch, 2004*).



4. **Verna Elaine Eames**, fourth child of Martha Morgan and her second with husband Samuel Eames, was born 17 January 1915, at Milo, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 24 January 2001 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah. She married 1 August 1932 in Milo, Bonneville, Idaho, to **Leland Jay Nickell**. He was born 13 December 1912 in Milo, Bonneville, Idaho, son of William Lee Nickell and Ethel May Haskins. Leland died 5 August 1987 Idaho Falls, Idaho.

According to her obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 27 January 2001, Elaine and Leland first settled on a farm in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, but moved to Idaho Falls in about 1960. She served in the LDS Primary and Relief Society for many years, and she and her husband were dance directors in Osgood for seven years. She was active in the PTA and she enjoyed dancing and quilting.

Children of **Elaine Eames and Leland Nickell** are (*from Elaine's family group sheets, updated by B Rand Nickell and Lila Avery Skinner*):

- a. *Daryl "J" Nickell*, born 7 September 1933 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. He married in July 1953 to Juantelle Foshbinder. He married second to Lea Petersen, and married third 18 June 1966 in Anaheim, Orange, California, to Deborah Ann Newkirk, who was born 25 January 1946 in Inglewood, Los Angeles, California, daughter of Donalee Courtney Newkirk and Enedina Lopez.
- b. *Richard Lee Nickell*, born 21 November 1936 in Osgood, and died 30 October 2003 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah. He married 12 November 1959 to Kathleen Daryl Kelly, born 2 February 1941 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, daughter of John Bennett Kelly and Daryl Agren Shurtleff.
- c. *Patricia Diane Nickell*, born 16 May 1939 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She married first Richard James Schuldt, born 11 May 1935 in Idaho Falls and died 27 December 2000 in Idaho Falls. He was a son of Harry George Schuldt and Flora Bertha Marker. Patricia and Richard divorced. Patricia married second 17 April 1959 in Idaho Falls to James Page Winborg, born 4 August 1934 in Idaho Falls, son of James Conrad Winborg and Lucia Page.
- d. *Robert Lynn Nickell*, born 24 January 1941 in Shelley, Bingham, Idaho. He first married Phyllis Starkes. He married second 28 July in Elko, Elko, Nevada, to Eula Christensen (Nash), born 7 December 1942 in Roberts, Jefferson, Idaho, daughter of Einer Chistensen and Alice Elsie Thompson. Robert fathered no children but adopted two with Eula.
- e. *Ethel Cheri Nickell*, born 22 October 1948 in Idaho Falls. She married 10 July 1970 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Gary Dee Christensen, son of Dewey M. Christensen and Connie Winborg. She married second Phillip Carr in Sun Valley, Blaine, Idaho.
- f. *Brian Rand Nickell*, born 2 September 1955 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He never married.

5. **Morgan Wayne Eames**, the fifth child of Martha Morgan and her third with husband Samuel Eames, was born 10 November 1916 at Milo, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 31 July 2002 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He married 24 November 1938 in Osgood, Idaho, to **Emma Pamela Perry**. She was born 14 February 1918 in Perry (Ririe), Jefferson, Idaho, the daughter of Henry Ridges Perry Jr. and Eleanor Yates. She died 2 July 2003 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He lived in Milo until age 7 when his family moved to Osgood, Idaho. According to his obituary in the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, 2 August 2002, they lived most of their lives on their own farm in Osgood, Idaho, near Idaho Falls. He was involved in raising livestock through his farming career. As an active member of the LDS church, he served twice in the bishopric and as Sunday school teacher, and he served in various other positions. He was known to have spoken at more than 50 funerals. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, reading, and baseball.



Figure 86. Morgan Wayne Eames (1916-2002)

**Children of Morgan and Pamela Eames** are (from *Morgan Eames' family records*):

- a. *James Morgan Eames*, born 22 August 1939 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. He married Sharon Kay Draper and lived in Idaho Falls, Idaho. They later divorced.
- b. *Martha Ann Eames*, born 23 June 1943 in Idaho Falls. She married 17 August, 1963, in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, to Norman Brent Holman and settled in Hood River, Oregon.
- c. *Michael Henry Eames*, born 16 May 1947 in Idaho Falls. He married 6 November 1970 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Evelyn Ann Richard, born 21 October 1949 in Fargo, Cass, North Dakota, daughter of Cleo Joseph Richard and Yvonne Pauline Lambert.
- d. *Kathryn Dione Eames*, born 13 March 1951 in Idaho Falls. She married 28 September 1973 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho, to Gary Leroy Draper, born 20 November 1949 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, son of Leroy Joseph Draper and Eva May Warth. She later divorced Gary.
- e. *Thomas Wayne Eames*, born 22 July 1953 in Idaho Falls. He married Susie Neidner in 1979. He married second to Christy Hamilton in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho. She was born 2 June 1960 in Jerome, Jerome, Idaho, daughter of George Hamilton and Gloria Cutler.

The names of **Samuel** and first wife **Emmaline Jones** children (not Morgan descendants):

- a. *Bertha Eames*, born 27 September 1895 at Teton City, Madison, Idaho, and died of cancer 4 February 1948 in Osgood, Bonneville, Idaho. She married 23 November 1911 Charles Ira Avery, who was born in Huntington, Utah, 30 September 1886, son of William Howard Avery and Eliza Jane Shepard. He died 22 February 1952.
- b. *Samuel Thomas Eames*, born 23 July 1898 at Milo, Idaho. He married first Grace Summers 14 June 1916. After a divorce he married Dorothy Esther Butler 25 May 1926. They lived in Osgood, Idaho.
- c. *Emmaline Eames*, born 4 March 1904, and died 16 August 1904.



## Chapter 17

### Joseph Charles Morgan and Melissa Bassett

**Joseph Charles (Joe) Morgan**, the fifth child of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford, was born 27 October 1879 in Oak City, Millard, Utah, and died 7 November 1969 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. He married 7 September 1904 in Logan, Cache, Utah, to **Melissa Mariam Bassett** (aka Liz), who was born 25 June 1883 in Clarkston, Cache, Utah, daughter of Edwin Bassett and Emily Ann Atkinson (Figure 87). She died 11 May 1957 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

*The following was written by grandson Leon Pitman, using records and data cited at the end.*

During his early childhood Joseph lived in the small community of Leamington in Millard County, Utah, located a few miles north of his birthplace, Oak City. He lived in an adobe house there that Thomas Morgan built for his second wife, Nancy Jane. This house is still standing on its original site.

When Joseph was about nine years old in 1888, his family sold the house and farm in Leamington and moved to Star Valley, Wyoming, where his family, along with about 50 Radford and Morgan relatives, founded the community of Etna in present Lincoln County. Later in life he wrote down some memories of life in Wyoming. His most prominent memories are of the terribly long, cold winters, starved livestock, and failed crops. At the age of 11 or 12 his family, along with many of his relatives, moved to Poplar in Bonneville County, Idaho, in 1891.

In the reminiscences of Joseph Morgan's life listed in the sources below, he recalled some of his childhood memories in Leamington, Utah. But he spoke more about people he remembered than of places where he had lived. His cousins Jim and George Lovell were among his boyhood chums. They were sons of his mother's sister Ellen Radford and her husband Joseph Lovell. He had known them in Leamington and in Wyoming before they all moved to Idaho. When he was 20 years old, his relatively young mother, age 53, died at the Morgan home in Poplar, Idaho.

Joseph first met Melissa Bassett (called Liz by her friends) at a dance and they afterward had a brief courtship. When they decided to marry in 1904, they took the train from Idaho Falls to Cache Valley, Utah, where Melissa had grown up. They stayed there in Clarkston for a time with Melissa's aunt Tillie and uncle Alfred Atkinson (her mother's brother) and were married in the Logan LDS temple 7 September 1904.

### Life in Poplar, Idaho

As a married couple, Joseph and Melissa Morgan first settled on a homestead in the rural tract of Poplar, in Bonneville County, Idaho, about 16 miles east of Idaho Falls. Like his father Thomas Morgan, Joseph was a farmer and was active in the LDS church. While living in Poplar he served for some time as the bishop of the local ward, and also worked on community projects such as the construction of a dam across Anderson Canal. His



**Figure 87.** Melissa Mariam Bassett Morgan (1883-1957), Joseph Charles Morgan (1879-1969). Wedding picture 1904.

formal education amounted to about two years of grammar school. Joseph farmed for many years in Poplar, and in the hills south of Poplar where he worked with his older brother Tom (John Thomas) Morgan, and his brother-in-law John Nebel, raising wheat, mainly, by the dry-farm method (without irrigation).

While in Poplar between 1904 and 1922 Joseph and Melissa had eleven children (Figures 88, 89), three of whom died in infancy. In about 1922 the family fell on hard economic times and had to give up the farm. They then moved to Idaho Falls, where Joseph got a part-time job in the Lincoln Sugar Mill, which produced refined sugar from the many sugar beets grown in the area. During this time they had their tenth child, Cecil. After a year or so in Idaho Falls, the Joseph Morgan family moved to the nearby community of Moreland in Bingham County, where they rented a farm. While living there, they had their eleventh child, Raymond, in 1924.

### **On the Move**

In about 1924 the family gave up their efforts to farm in Eastern Idaho. But they had apparently done well enough to buy a Model T Ford which they used to drive to Emmett in Gem County in western Idaho, a move which required three days of troublesome driving. While in Emmett, Joseph Morgan worked for the Boise Payette sawmill. But even though he was paid over \$4.00 per day, possibly more than he had ever been paid, he decided to try farming again. So after a year at the sawmill, he rented a farm in Montour, about 20 miles northeast of Emmett, in Gem County. But even after the family moved to Montour, Joseph still had to work at times at the sawmill. Their sons, Edwin and Alma, did much of the farm work. Daughter Lila remembered that one of her chores while in Montour was taking care of turkeys. She also remembered that one year the family canned up to 700 quarts of fruit and vegetables, most of which were grown in their own gardens. Daughter Florence mentioned that of all the places they lived, Montour was her favorite.

While the family lived in western Idaho, their oldest daughter Emily married George Howard Pitman, whose family had once lived in Milo/Ucon just a few miles from the Morgans in Eastern Idaho prior to their migration to Emmett.

In 1927, the Morgan family left Montour, and went to Glenns Ferry, a rather isolated community on the Snake River in Elmore County, Idaho. While there, their daughter Mamie married Owen Crockett. After about a year there, the family moved to Eden in Jerome County, south central Idaho. At Eden they farmed for two years, raising dry beans and potatoes on newly opened land, some of which Joseph and the older sons cleared themselves. In 1931, after rather unsuccessful efforts at Eden, they moved to Dietrich in Lincoln County, south central Idaho. There they obtained a small farm and persuaded their daughter Emily and her husband George H. Pitman to move to a farm next to them. They stayed in Dietrich for the next ten years, eking out a living during the Depression years. The younger Morgan children attended school in Dietrich. Four members of the family married while living in Dietrich: Florence married Lee Wessel in 1934, Edwin married Thelma Morgan in 1934, Alma married Lucille Cooper in 1935, and Lila married Homer Anderson in 1935.



In September 1941, Joseph and Melissa finally gave up farming, moved the remainder of their family (Cecil and Raymond) to Roy, Weber, Utah, where they operated a gasoline service station. By this time most of the older children had started families of their own. In 1945 Joseph and Melissa retired to Fruit Heights, Davis County, Utah, where they tended a small orchard of fruit trees behind their small home at the foot of the Wasatch Mountains.

Melissa's children, when recalling aspects of their mother's life, most prominently mention that their mother often suffered from headaches and ill health. During the last several years of her life, she had a progressive loss of hearing, and she was often bedridden. The older girls did most of the domestic chores when their mother was down. At the age of 74 she died in Salt Lake City on 7 May 1957, preceding her husband in death by 12 years. She is remembered as having had a reserved and quiet disposition. Her daughter Lila remembered fondly that Melissa played the guitar and sang. She was short in stature and had dark brown to black hair and a slim to medium frame.

In remembering their father, the children mentioned his good nature, warmth, and friendliness. He had light brown hair, was medium in height, and had a slim build. He had good health until his last few years when he had considerable memory loss, possibly due to Alzheimer's disease, and was unable to care for himself. His daughter Mamie and son Raymond, both of whom lived nearby, took care of him until his death



**Figure 88. Joseph Charles and Melissa Morgan family.** Back row, L-R: Joseph Charles Morgan (1879-1969), Melissa Mariam Bassett Morgan (1883-1957), Florence Melissa Morgan (1914-1990). Center, L-R: Alma Lyman Morgan (1913-1991), Lila Mary Morgan (1917-1992). Front, L-R: Cecil Parley Morgan 1922-1985), Raymond Edgar (Ray) Morgan (1924-). Photo taken about 1928.

in Ogden, Utah, in November 1969 at the age of 90. Joseph and Melissa Morgan are buried together in the Layton, Utah, cemetery.

Together **Joseph and Melissa Morgan** had eleven children (Figures 89, 90), eight of whom reached adulthood, as follows:

1. Thomas Edwin Morgan, 1905
2. Joseph Albert Morgan, 1907 (died young)
3. Emily Jane Morgan, 1908
4. Mamie Luella Morgan, 1911
5. Alma Lyman Morgan, 1913
6. Florence Melissa Morgan, 1914
7. Lila Mary Morgan, 1917
8. James Ammon Morgan, 1920 (died young)
9. Heber Anthony Morgan, 1921 (died young)
10. Cecil Parley Morgan, 1922
11. Raymond Edgar Morgan, 1924



**Figure 89. Joseph Charles and Melissa Morgan family.** Back row, L-R: Raymond Edgar (Ray) Morgan (1924-), Lila Mary Morgan Anderson (1917-1996), Florence Melissa Morgan Wessel (1914-1990), Mamie Luella Morgan Crockett (1911-1996), Cecil Parley Morgan, (1922-1985). Front, L-R: Thomas Edwin Morgan (1905-1955). Melissa Mariam Bassett Morgan (1883-1957), Joseph Charles Morgan (1879-1969), Alma Lyman Morgan (1913-1991). Photo taken about 1950.





**Figure 90. Joseph Charles Morgan (1879-1969) and Melissa Bassett Morgan (1883-1957) on their 50th wedding anniversary, 1954.**

1. **Thomas Edwin Morgan**, the first child of Joseph Morgan and Melissa Bassett, was born 2 July 1905 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 10 March 1955 while at work at Hill Air Force Base in Layton, Davis, Utah. He grew up in Poplar, attending school there. He married Thelma Morgan (not a relative) on 24 August 1934 in Shoshone, Lincoln, Idaho. She was born 4 July 1907 in Parker, Fremont, Idaho, the daughter of Thomas Vaughn Morgan and Isabell Clegg. Thelma died 24 June 1994 in Salt Lake City, Utah. At the time of their marriage, Thelma had five-year-old twin daughters from a previous marriage; their names were Verna and Vella. Edwin and Thelma reared Verna in their home, but Vella was adopted by and reared in the home of a relative and neighbor, Afton and Anna Clegg.

The first few years of their married life, Edwin and Thelma lived in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho, where his parents and many of his siblings were living at the time.

In 1941 Edwin and Thelma moved to Layton, Davis, Utah, where he obtained work at the nearby Hill Air Force Base.



In addition to Thelma's daughters, **Edwin and Thelma Morgan** had one child of their own:

- a. *LeRoy Allen Morgan*, born 5 May 1939 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. He never married.
2. **Joseph Albert Morgan**, born 11 March 1907 in Poplar and died 27 March 1908.
3. **Emily Jane Morgan**, the third child of Joseph Morgan and Melissa Bassett, was born 12 October 1908 in Teton City, Madison, Idaho, and died 26 June 1945 in Wendell, Gooding, Idaho, after a short illness. She married 30 October 1929 **George Howard Pitman** in Salt Lake City, Utah (Figure 91). He was born 17 October 1901 in Ucon, Bonneville, Idaho, a son of Sidney Pitman and Elizabeth Billman, and died in Twin Falls, Idaho, 5 March 1985.

*Extracted from a life sketch of Emily written by Isabelle (Belle) Pitman Knowles:*

As a young girl Emily lived in Poplar, Idaho, and Belle Pitman, lived in Ucon, Idaho, some 15 miles apart. The two first got acquainted when Belle spent summers at her sister Mattie's home in Poplar. Coincidentally both families, the Pitmans and Morgans, later moved to the western Idaho town of Emmett, where Emily and Belle again formed a close bond. Belle mentioned that the two worked together canning fruit and other jobs when living in Emmett. When the Morgans moved from Emmett to Montour (about 10 miles east of Emmett) in about 1925, Emily moved in with Belle and her husband, Leo Knowles. Emily stayed with Belle when she had her first baby, and she helped other mothers in need while living in Emmett.



**Figure 91.** George Howard Pitman (1901-1985), Emily Jane Morgan Pitman (1908-1945). Married 30 October 1929.

Emily's sisters remember her as hard-working, neat, clean, conscientious, and thrifty. She often worried about her father's debts and tried to help her financially troubled family by preparing foods and making clothes and useful gifts which she took to them every time she visited them when they lived in Montour.

In 1927 the Morgan family moved to Glenns Ferry, about 80 miles east of Emmett. This time Emily went with them, but returned again to Emmett in 1929 to help Belle when she gave birth to her second child. Belle arranged for her brother George Howard Pitman to drive Emily from Glenns Ferry to Emmett. On this occasion, Emily and Howard became acquainted, romance later blossomed, and they were married 30 October 1929. They drove all the way to Salt Lake City to get married in the LDS temple there.

As a married couple Emily and Howard first settled in Emmett, where Howard worked as a carpenter. But in the spring of 1932 they decided to move to a farm in Dietrich, Idaho, adjacent to where her Morgan family had moved the previous year. In 1935 Belle came to Dietrich, about 150 miles from Emmett, to help Emily with the birth of her third child, Marvin. That same year, Belle and Leo Knowles decided to move to a farm adjacent to Emily and Howard's farm in Dietrich. So for several years before her death, Emily and her family lived as neighbors to her parents and siblings adjacent on the east, and in-laws Belle and Leo's family adjacent on the west of the Pitman farm. This close proximity allowed Emily to continue to help her ailing mother and the Morgan family, and to continue to get help from Belle when Emily bore her two youngest children.

But in May or June, 1945, Emily began suffering from abdominal pain. She was taken to the hospital in Wendell, Idaho, where she had a hysterectomy. However, her abdominal problems had been misdiagnosed. She was actually suffering from a bowel obstruction which poisoned her system with gangrene. She died at the hospital 26 June 1945 at age 37, leaving behind a widowed husband with five small children.

In the words of their son Dale Pitman, in *A History of Dietrich, Idaho*, pages 204, 205 by Jessie Lagrange Gard and others, published in Dietrich in 1998:

Howard and his wife, Emily, moved to Dietrich in the spring of 1932. The family had previously lived in Emmett, Gem, Idaho, where Howard had done carpentry and heavy construction work. . . . Howard brought his carpentry skills to Dietrich, although his primary occupation was farming. At Dietrich he built a home and farm buildings for his and Emily's own family near the home of her parents. Through the years Howard helped many other families build or remodel their homes, and with other building projects. He also helped build the Dietrich school after the previous one burned in 1934. In the 1930s and 40s he built several concrete bridges over local irrigation canals.

During the 1930s Howard was the ditchrider for the local Big Wood Canal Company. This job, together with his skills as a farmer and Emily's gardening and homemaking skills, supported their family successfully through the Great

Depression. The Pitmans brought one child (Dale) with them to Dietrich when they moved there from Emmett. In Dietrich, Emily bore four more children. She died suddenly in 1945 at the age of 37, leaving a family of five young children.

Coming to the aid of the Pitman family after Emily's death was Emily's sister, Florence Morgan Wessel. Florence, divorced from her first husband, brought her 11-year-old child, Alice, to the family when she married Howard in the spring of 1946. Howard later officially adopted Alice and she was reared in the Pitman family.

For more information on the Pitmans, see Florence Morgan.

**Emily Morgan and George Howard Pitman** had the following children (*from Pitman family records*):

- a. *Dale Howard Pitman*, born 19 October 1930 in Emmett, Gem, Idaho. He married Merlyn Lucille Harrison on 24 May 1957 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She was born 25 June 1937 in Gooding, Gooding, Idaho, daughter of Fredrick Law Harrison and Mary Lucille Hogan. They lived and raised a family of four children in San Jose, California.
  - b. *Helen Jane Pitman*, born 28 August 1933 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. She married Alan Aaron Johnson, born 12 June 1930 in Salt Lake City, Utah, son of Louis Aaron Johnson and Sarah Mae Newby. They had a family of six and settled in Bountiful, Davis, Utah.
  - c. *Marvin Joseph Pitman*, born 6 February 1935 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. He married 30 December 1958 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Delores Parks. She was born 31 July 1930 in Riverside, Bingham, Idaho, daughter of Rulon Robert Parks and Martha Van Orden. They had a family of six and settled in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho.
  - d. *Leon Sidney Pitman*, born 4 September 1938 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. He married 13 April 1963 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Sally Sue Crenshaw. She was born 27 August 1941 in Marshall, Harrison, Texas, daughter of Joseph S Crenshaw and Lorraine Powell. They had two children and settled in Modesto, Stanislaus, California.
  - e. *Phyllis Melissa Pitman*, born 27 December 1940 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. She married 9 October 1958 in Logan, Cache, Utah, to Raymond Glenn Lewin. He was born 20 January 1935 in Boise, Ada, Idaho, son of Cecil Melvin Lewin and Mary Jeannette Strong. They had five children and eventually settled in Twin Falls, Idaho.
4. **Mamie Luella Morgan**, the fourth child of Joseph Morgan and Melissa Bassett, was born 27 August 1911 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 22 January 1996 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah. She married first **Owen Herbert Crockett** in 1932 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was born 17 September 1910 in King Hill, Elmore, Idaho, son of Alvin David Crockett and Emma Jensen. Owen died in a plane crash 18 May 1948 near Dillon, Colorado.



**Mamie** married second in 1952 to **John Voss** in Layton, Davis, Utah. He died in 1982 in Layton, Utah. She lived most of her adult life in Layton, where she at times worked as a cook for the schools in Layton. She had no children, but she and Owen adopted twin boys, Don and Dale.

In her own words:

"I, Mamie Luella Morgan, fourth child of Joseph and Melissa Bassett Morgan, grew up in Idaho, attending school in Poplar [Bonneville], Emmett [Gem County], and Montour [Gem]. I married Owen Herbert Crockett and he worked for Union Pacific Railroad. We lived in Glenns Ferry, [Elmore], Idaho. After we had been married six years, we adopted a pair of beautiful twin baby boys. We remained in Glenns Ferry until November 1942 when we moved to Layton, Davis, Utah. There Owen was employed at Hill Air Force Base, repairing radios and teletype machines. He was sent to Denver, Colorado, and on his return trip he was in an airplane crash near Dillon, Colorado, and was killed. He served as superintendent of Sunday School, president of Elders Quorum, and at the time of his death was assistant ward clerk. I have been active in the church working in Primary, Sunday School, and Relief Society.

"I married on 10 January 1952 to John L. Voss, who was born 25 May 1909 in Ogden, Weber, Utah, son of Charles Voss and Olive Saddler. He worked at Hill Air Force Base."

John and Mamie Voss lived in Layton, Utah, in Mamie's house that she had for many years.

The twin sons adopted by **Mamie and Owen Crockett** are surname Crockett. Their birth parents are not identified:

- a. *Don Herbert Crockett* (adopted twin), born 7 June 1938 in Glenns Ferry, Elmore, Idaho.
- b. *Dale Owen Crockett* (adopted twin), born 7 June 1938 in Glenns Ferry, Elmore, Idaho.

5. **Alma Lyman Morgan** (aka Al), the fifth child of Joseph Morgan and Melissa Bassett, was born 9 March 1913 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 24 May 1991 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. He married first 1 November 1935 in Gooding, Gooding, Idaho, to **Lucille Cooper**, born 2 October 1914 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, the daughter of John Cooper and Mary Lucinda Hendricks. She died 19 November 1976 in Spokane, Spokane, Washington. He married second Delilah May Walkup, with whom he had no children. Delilah was born 21 March 1912 in Leedey, Dewey, Oklahoma, and died 13 April 2002 in Walla Walla, Washington.

Al and Lucille began their lives together in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho, where both of their families lived during the 1930s. In Dietrich, Al worked in farming, construction, and at times had a job at a gasoline service station. In the book "A

*History of Dietrich, Idaho,*“ page 38, it says “The Corner Service Station was built and operated in the 1930s by Alma and Lucille Morgan on the corner just south of the Dietrich Mercantile.” Their first three children were born in Dietrich.

In 1943 Al and Lucille moved to Pasco, Franklin, Washington, where they settled for most of the rest of their lives. Alma for many years was an insurance salesman, primarily for the Beneficial Life Insurance Company, but others as well. He at times worked in real estate, as a tax service advisor, a general construction contractor, and carpenter. He was active in LDS church affairs in Pasco, serving as one of the first leaders of the church branch there.

In 1978 Al and his second wife Delilah “fulfilled a dream of going on a mission for the LDS church and took the opportunity to serve in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. Family and church had been synonymous as the central focus of their lives.”

On 7 May of 1991 Al entered the hospital for prostate surgery, but cancer had spread widely from his prostate. While still in the hospital, recovering from surgery, he died from heart failure on 24 May 1991.

**Alma and Lucille Morgan** had eight children as follows:

- a. *Ruth Ellen Morgan*, born 15 June 1937 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. She married 23 August 1957 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Grandon Lee Nelson, born 26 April 1943 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, son of Grandon Van Noy Nelson and Virginia Lee.
- b. *Betty Joanne Morgan*, born 15 July 1938 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho, and died 7 October 1956 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington, at age 18. She never married.
- c. *Dorothy Rae Morgan* born 26 October 1940 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. She married 6 June 1958 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington, to Charles Hyrum Cooper, who was born 8 October 1938 in Denver, Colorado, son of Eugene H. Cooper and Pearle Carlson.
- d. *Mary Lucille Morgan*, born 28 June 1944 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. She married 3 April 1963 in Rawlins, Carbon, Wyoming, to Kenneth William Ketterman, who was born in 1941. He is the son of Elmer William Ketterman and Sarah Samuelson.
- e. *David Norman Morgan*, born 17 October 1947 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. He married first 1 July 1967 in Seattle, King, Washington, to Sharon Kay Kling, the daughter of Rheinholt Kling and Leah Strasheim. David and Sharon had four children and were divorced. He married second 20 December 1988 to Nancy J. Willburn (Brown). Nancy was born 30 December 1947 in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Delwin V. Willburn and Dorene Luke. David and Nancy have no children.
- f. *Carol Jean Morgan*, born 16 September 1948 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. She married 19 June 1970 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to Robert Earl Cazier, who was born 27 October 1948, son of Earl Callis Cazier and Shirley V. Branson. They settled in Kennewick, Benton, Washington.

g. *Susan Kay Morgan*, born 16 January 1954 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. She married first in about 1972 in Pasco, Washington, to Wayne Dwight Daily, son of Lloyd Daily and Rose. They had two children. Susan married second Thomas William Thorsen on 14 February 1981 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. Thomas was born 23 August 1952 in Gunnison, Gunnison, Colorado, the son of Thomas William Thorsen and Doris Spencer. Susan and Thomas had one child and settled in Richland, Benton, Washington.

h. *Karren Lee Morgan*, born 17 May 1956 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. She married 2 June 1976 in Logan, Cache, Utah, to Jerry Clayton Tippetts, who was born 23 May 1954 in Afton, Lincoln, Wyoming, son of Niel J. Tippetts and Nelda Yost. They had three children and settled in Mountain Home, Elmore, Idaho.

6. **Florence Melissa Morgan**, the sixth child of Joseph Morgan and Melissa Bassett, was born 12 December 1914 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 8 March 1990 in Bountiful, Davis, Utah. She married first 20 February 1934 in Gooding, Gooding, Idaho, to **Leland Hollis Wessel**, born 20 January 1908 in Exline, Appanoose, Iowa, and died December 1976 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was the son of William Wessel and Carrie Edith Bennett. Florence and Lee Wessel settled in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho, where they had one child, surname Wessel:



Figure 92. Florence Melissa Morgan Wessel Pitman (1914-1990). George Howard Pitman (1901-1985). Wedding 1946.



- a. *Alice Lee Wessel*, born 24 June 1934 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. She married 25 March 1951 in Dietrich, to Bill Boyd Warren, born 13 July 1931 in Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado, son of Preston Perry Warren and Lyda Grace Sugart. They eventually settled in Colorado Springs, where they reared one daughter and then divorced. Alice second married Chester Hunt who was born 20 July 1934 in Blount County, Tennessee, and died 23 April 2004 in Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado. Alice had no children with her second husband.

But the marriage of Florence and Leland Wessel was a troubled one, ending in divorce.

Florence married second her sister's widower, **George Howard Pitman** (aka Howard), 4 April 1946 in Salt Lake City, Utah (Figure 92). He was born 17 October 1901 in Ucon, Bonneville, Idaho, son of Sidney Pitman and Elizabeth Billman. Florence and Howard Pitman lived on the Pitman farm in Dietrich, Idaho, and while they had no children together, she became the stepmother of her sister Emily's Pitman family and reared them to adulthood in Dietrich. Her daughter Alice was 11 when Florence and Howard Pitman were married. Alice was reared in the Pitman household in Dietrich and was legally adopted by Howard Pitman.

Florence as a child lived in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, where she attended the local school. She was still a child when her family moved from Eastern Idaho to Emmett, Gem, Idaho, and a few years later to Montour, Gem, Idaho. She remembered her four years at Montour as being her favorite place when she was a teenager. She moved to Dietrich with her parents and family in 1931 when she was about 17 years old. She married Lee Wessel in 1934 while living in Dietrich.

*Extracted from a life sketch of Florence Melissa Morgan by daughter Alice Hunt, 1999.*

By the time the Morgan family had moved to Dietrich, Idaho, in 1931, Florence had completed school through the eighth grade. Due to her mother's poor health, she did not attend school in Dietrich. She remained at home, helping with kitchen duties and caring for the younger children.

In 1934 Florence married Leland Hollis Wessel. Later that year their daughter Alice was born. The earliest years of this marriage were spent in the Dietrich area with Lee working at farming and later with the Union Pacific Railroad. Florence had a reputation by this time of always taking care of someone. When mothers-to-be needed help, she would go to their homes and stay until the new mothers were able to resume the normal duties of the home.

During World War II many defense plants began operating in the Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah, area. Florence and family moved to Utah in 1943. She worked for a short time at the Union Pacific Railroad laundry, then was hired at the Ogden Arsenal. Here she disassembled, repaired, and reassembled firearms. She was very proud of her "war effort" contribution.

Another big change came about in Florence's life after her sister Emily Pitman passed away in 1945. She and daughter Alice made a move back to Dietrich, Idaho, to live with the George Howard Pitman family, as his wife Emily's death left a family of five children without a mother. Florence assumed the responsibility of helping to care for her sister's five children. She and Lee divorced. The melding of two families is not usually easy and this one was no exception. But Florence and Howard were married in 1946, making this arrangement permanent. She worked diligently in gardening, canning, cooking, and cleaning. There was always plenty of everything to be done.

In 1950 Howard and Florence sold their first farm in Dietrich and bought about 600 acres of unimproved rangeland, also in Dietrich, where he built a new house and farm buildings. With the help of his boys and a nephew (George Ward), he put about 100 acres of that land under irrigation and used it to grow mainly hay and grain for his livestock.

In 1960, after her daughter Alice and all her Pitman stepchildren were married or gone, she and Howard sold the family home and farm and moved to Shoshone, Lincoln, Idaho, where he continued to build houses and work as a contractor on other building projects.

Alice continues:

From 1970 to 1974 they lived in Puyallup, Washington, working on a church building project. Howard would help build and Florence would stain and varnish the woodwork. When they moved back to Idaho in about 1974, the town of Jerome became their next home.

As the years passed Florence was a helpmate and devoted companion to her husband Howard. Florence enjoyed mostly good health until serious intestinal surgery in 1972. She recovered but did have stomach problems periodically after that time. It was also observed that her once sharp memory was slipping. After Howard's death in 1985, her condition deteriorated rapidly. Florence moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1986 and lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Alice and Chester Hunt. As her health worsened her necessary needs required constant nursing care. She was moved to an Alzheimer's care center in Bountiful, Utah, in July of 1989. While there she contracted pneumonia and passed away on 8 March 1990. She is buried next to her husband and sister in the Shoshone, Idaho, Cemetery. She is remembered as an avid flower gardener with a special love for geraniums.

7. **Lila Mary Morgan**, the seventh child of Joseph Morgan and Melissa Bassett, was born 3 February 1917 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 2 October 1996 in Pocatello, Idaho. She married 6 December 1935 **Homer L. Anderson**, son of Andrew M. Anderson and Hannah E. Jones. He was born 7 February 1913 in Thatcher, Franklin, Idaho, and died 16 November 1992 in Shoshone, Lincoln, Idaho.

Lila wrote of a few of her memories of her childhood in Poplar and Idaho Falls before she started school. She remembered starting school when her family lived in Moreland, Idaho, in about 1924. But she grew up mainly in Emmett and Montour in western Idaho. She speaks of times when she had to stay out of school because members of her family had diphtheria or smallpox. Apparently when one child in school got a serious infectious disease, all children from that family would be quarantined in their family's home until the disease passed from the family.

But Lila's favorite place while growing up was on the farm where the family lived in Montour, Idaho. She spoke of a large house with many rooms and the large amount of space for each family member. She mentioned that she and her sister Florence herded a large flock of the family's turkeys, and canning many jars of fruit and vegetables that they grew in the family garden. They lived in Montour for about four years and left there when she was about 10 years old in 1927. When the family left Montour, they moved to Glenns Ferry, Elmore, Idaho, for a short time, but by the 1930 census they were living in Eden, Jerome, Idaho.

At the age of about 14, in 1931, Lila's family moved to Dietrich, Lincoln County, Idaho, where they remained on a farm for the next 10 years. It was while living in Dietrich that Lila met and married her life-long husband Homer Anderson.

She and Homer remained in Dietrich until sometime after 1940 when they moved to Kaysville, Davis, Utah, where Homer worked at Hill Air Force Base. In about 1953 they moved back to Dietrich, where they bought a gasoline service station and general convenience store first owned by her brother, Alma Morgan. After retiring, they spent their later years in Shoshone, Lincoln, Idaho. Sometime after Homer's death in 1992, Lila spent her remaining days in Pocatello, Idaho, near where her daughter, LaDonna lived.

**Lila Morgan and Homer Anderson** had three girls (*from Lila's family records, updated in 2004 by Wendy Passantino*):

- a. *LaDonna Fay Anderson*, born 16 February 1939 in Gooding, Gooding, Idaho. She married 11 October 1955 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho, to Larry Duane Aslett, born 1 March 1938 in Hailey, Blaine, Idaho, son of Duane Aslett and Opal Ross.
- b. *Marjorie May Anderson*, born 1 March 1940 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. She married first 18 May 1956 in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho, to Richard "G" McCowan, born 22 June 1938 in Kimberly, Twin Falls, Idaho, son of Herbert Grant McCowan and Eunice May Cleveland. She married second 2 November 1962 in Pocatello, Bannock, Idaho, to Ronald Harris, who was born 7 May 1938 in Driggs, Teton, Idaho, son of McGee Harris and LaRue Deule. She married third 12 November 1969 in Carson City, Lyon, Nevada, to Al Stuetzle, who was born 21 December 1941 in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess, New York, son of Alfred Stuetzle and Jean Hood. She married fourth Douglas Lee. She married



fifth 16 September 2000 in Chico, Butte, California, to Herbert Stansbury III, born 13 October 1939 in Beckley, Raleigh, West Virginia, son of Herbert Earl Stansbury II and Virginia Bell Meaeor.

- c. *Barbara Kay Anderson*, born 13 May in Kaysville, Davis, Utah, and died 17 September 1997 in San Jose, Santa Clara, California. She married 10 November 1962 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Ronald James Nunley, who was born 22 September 1940 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and died 18 December 2000. He was the son of John Clarence George Nunley and Ruth Williams. Barbara married second 16 July 1983 in San Mateo, California, to Rand Roselli, who was born 25 July 1948 in Washington, D.C.
8. **James Ammon Morgan**, born 19 January 1920 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 26 January 1920.
9. **Heber Anthony Morgan**, born 10 March 1921 in Poplar, Bonneville, Idaho, and died 17 March 1921.
10. **Cecil Parley Morgan**, the tenth child of Joseph Charles Morgan and Melissa Bassett, born 13 October 1922 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, and died of a heart attack 3 August 1985 in St. George, Washington, Utah. He married 16 December 1942 to **Dora Jane Buttars**, born 22 January 1926 in Salt Lake City, Utah, a daughter of Robert T. Buttars and Emily Maude Stewart.

*The following was written by Cecil's wife, Dora (Pat) Morgan:*

As Cecil was growing up he lived in the many places in Idaho where his family moved but obtained much of his schooling in Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. In his early working years, Cecil worked for a company that set power [electric transmission] poles. After the family moved to Utah in 1941, Cecil worked for a short time at a gasoline service station operated by his father in Roy, Weber, Utah. But later he found work at a military weapons arsenal in Clearfield, Utah. It was at this time [in 1942] that he met his future wife Dora. Cecil always called her Pat, a name which she and all who knew her adopted. Three days after he and Pat were married, he received his draft call for military service. He was gone for three years during World War II.

Cecil served under General George Patton in the 3rd Army Corps as an ordnance soldier. His job was to repair military tanks behind the troops as needed. By following the Infantry, he avoided the Normandy invasion by a couple of days. His unit followed the troops across Belgium, France, and Germany before the war ended and he was able to return home.

After the war they lived for a short time in Pasco, Washington, and in Ogden, Utah, before moving to California. He accepted a job with United Airlines and lived for two years in South San Francisco. He did not enjoy his job at United so they left and bought a home in San Jose, California, where they lived for over 30 years. While in the San Jose area he opened three auto

shops at different times: Cecil's Automotive, West Valley Clinic, and Auto-Tech, the last one in nearby Los Gatos.

Cecil retired in September 1984. He and Pat then bought a home in St. George, Utah. He worked hard on the home to make it better than it was when they moved in.

On 3 August 1985, while having a sandwich at a local restaurant, Cecil put his head down and died [of heart failure]. It was so sudden. He was buried in the Los Gatos Cemetery, Santa Clara County, California.

**Cecil and Dora (Pat) Morgan** had three children (*from the records of Dora and Cecil Morgan*):

- a. *Kenneth Cecil Morgan*, born 19 September 1946 in Pasco, Franklin, Washington. He married Kathy Helen Harwood, who was born 17 April 1947 in San Jose, Santa Clara, California, the daughter of George Edward Harwood and Marjorie Helen Whittaker.
- b. *Gerry Lou Morgan*, born 3 May 1950 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She married first Larry James Sanders, who was born 10 February 1947 in Pasadena, Los Angeles, California, son of Cortez Lemmon Sanders and Mary Eloise Woods. Gerry married second Scott Stom, who was born 29 May 1953 in Penrose, Fremont, Colorado, son of Glen Stom and Dorothy Cristino Sinclair.
- c. *Steven Charles Morgan*, born 23 August 1955 in San Jose, Santa Clara, California. He married first Cheryl Lynn Dyer, who was born 22 June 1956, possibly in Iowa, daughter of James Dyer and Elaine Worckener. They later divorced. Steven married second Wendy Rene Fruits, who was born 23 April 1959 in Flint, Genesee, Michigan. Steven married third Linda Carol Tangren, who was born 31 December 1955 in Wichita, Sedgwick, Kansas, daughter of Loris Burke Tangren and Mildred Ruth Lamar.

11. **Raymond (Ray) Edgar Morgan**, the eleventh child of Joseph Morgan and Melissa Bassett, was born 16 December 1924 in Moreland, Bingham, Idaho. He married first 18 February 1943 in Farmington, Davis, Utah, to **Mary Louis Watkins**, who was born 30 June 1926 in Salt Lake City, Utah, daughter of Arthur Beachum Watkins and Wanda May Saville. Mary Louis died in Hayward, Alameda, California, 10 October 1988. Ray and Mary had one child, Ronald. After a divorce and after he returned from World War II in Europe, he married second 11 July 1946 in Logan, Cache, Utah, to **Janet Jean Abrams**. She was born 8 June 1925 in Salt Lake City, Utah, a daughter of William Feris Abrams and Blanche "J" Jones.

*The life sketch below was extracted from interviews with Ray by his niece Helen Pitman Johnson in the winter of 2004.*

When Ray was still small, in 1931, his family moved to Dietrich, Lincoln, Idaho. It was there he started school. He and his older brother Cecil were always together as they grew up on the farm in Dietrich. In reference to the poverty of the family during the Depression years, Ray says:

There was never much to go around in the family of the comforts of life as we now know them. Each of the children and parents had their own bed rolls which they would roll up in the mornings and lay out at night. Many times all we would have to eat at night was bread and milk which we produced on the farm. My brother-in-law, Howard Pitman, was a carpenter. He and his wife, (my sister) Emily, lived a short distance away and helped our family out whenever they could. Howard built an addition of two bedrooms on to our house.

By that time [after 1935] Cecil and Ray were the only children left living at home and they got to share one of the new rooms.

On September 26, 1941, the family moved to Roy, Weber, Utah, where they lived for a short time, but later found some land on which to plant fruit trees, mostly peaches. This property in Fruit Heights, Davis, Utah, was close to the mountains and was a lovely setting with a mountain stream on the side of the land.

Ray got a job with the Civil Service in June 1942, but in June of 1943 he was drafted in the Army. Before he left for the Army he married his first wife Mary Louise Watkins, of nearby Kaysville, Utah. Their first baby was born in November 1943 while Ray was in the Army in England and Germany. He was discharged from the Army in December 1945. He and Mary were divorced shortly after he returned, and Ray gained custody of their child Ronald. Ray married his second wife, Janet Jean Abrams, in July of 1946.

After Ray returned from the Army, he again worked for the Civil Service at the Naval Supply Depot in Clearfield, Davis, Utah, starting in February 1946. He worked at the Naval Supply Depot for 16 years. He then worked at Hill Air Force Base for 12 years. His health started failing him at an early age so he retired in 1974 at the age of 50. In the meantime he remodeled a house in Fruit Heights for his family, the same house which his wife Jean grew up in.

In 2004, Ray's niece Helen Johnson writes:

There have been some recent changes made in the area where Uncle Ray and Jean lived all these years. A housing developer bought the Morgan property where they spent most of their lives and raised a family of eight. In exchange for their land, the developer built a duplex for them about a block south of



Figure 93. Ray Morgan (1924-).



their old property. While this move to the new place was very inconvenient for them, and especially sad for Jean since the old property was her childhood home, they are now happy with the new place. Their daughter Janice lives a short distance from them and takes care of their needs.

At the time of this writing in 2004, Ray Morgan is one of only two grandchildren of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford still living. The other one, Ruth Hansen, born in 1908, is much older than Ray, still lives in St. Anthony, Idaho, and was 96 in 2004.

The child of **Raymond Morgan** and first wife **Mary Louis Watkins** is (*provided by Ronald Morgan*):

- a. *Ronald Edgar Morgan*, born 27 November 1943 in Ogden, Weber, Utah, was reared as a member of Raymond's family with his second wife Jean. Ronald married 1 May 1974 in Laie, Oahu, Hawaii, to Mae Alofipo, who was born 1 January 1935 in Mapusagaga, Tutuila, American Samoa, daughter of Toso Tufuga Alofipo and Usuia Tailele.

The children of **Raymond Morgan** and **Janet Jean Abrams** are as follows (*from family records of Raymond and Jean Morgan*):

- b. *Howard Abrams Morgan*, born 7 June 1947 in Ogden, Weber, Utah. He married 18 December 1971 in Radcliff, Hardin, Kentucky, to Wanda Kay Roper, who was born 10 September 1950 at Fort Bragg, Hoke, North Carolina, daughter of Daniel Webster Roper and Flora May Curry.
- c. *Linda Abrams Morgan*, born 6 August 1949 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She married 2 June 1973 in Layton, Davis, Utah, to Peter Martuscello, who was born 10 December 1947 in Cornwall, Orange, New York, son of Daniel Martuscello and Phoebe Elizabeth Dalvechia.
- d. *Meredith Abrams Morgan*, born 16 July 1951 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He married 18 December 1973 in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Joyce Lynn Sharp, who was born in 1954 in Cut Bank, Glacier, Montana, daughter of James Sharp and Joyce O. Campbell.
- e. *Eileen Abrams Morgan*, born 27 December 1955 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She married 19 September 1981 in Dallas, Texas, to Bradley Edward Sandy. He was born 3 November 1945 in Oakland, Alameda, California, son of Arthur Edward Sandy and Edelada Gutner.
- f. *Janice Abrams Morgan*, born 28 November 1960 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She married 14 July 1981 in Elko, Nevada, to James Charles Mitchell, who was born 28 October 1936 in Tampa, Hillsborough, Florida, son of Jack Mitchell and Martha Cook.

## Chapter 18

### Lydia Almeda Morgan and George W. Nowlin

**Lydia Almeda Morgan** (aka Almeda and Meade), the ninth and youngest child of Thomas Morgan and Nancy Jane Radford, was born 5 March 1888 in Leamington, Millard, Utah, and died 6 October 1954 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She married 19 December 1906 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, to **George Washington Nowlin**, who was born 17 May 1882 in Nephi, Juab, Utah, son of Jabus Townsend Nowlin and Maria Tolley (Figures 94, 95). George died 25 February 1966 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Lydia Almeda was an infant when her family moved to Star Valley, Wyoming, in 1888 and subsequently to Poplar, Idaho, in 1891. Her mother, Nancy Jane, died 10 May 1900 at her home in Poplar. At that time Almeda was 12 years old. Her older brothers and sisters were adults by that time, although Joseph Charles was still single and living at the Thomas Morgan home in 1900. The others had married and were already gone from the family home. She grew to adulthood in Poplar with her father, Thomas Morgan. Just before Almeda got married, her aged father married Susan Byington Wilbur in October 1906, just two months before Lydia got married.

In March 1908 the Nowlins with his parents and some of his brothers and related Idaho Falls families emigrated to Claresholm, Alberta, Canada, where George acquired a homestead farm a few miles south of Claresholm in a farming district known as the Northern Light District.

*The following is quoted from the book listed below.*

A niece, Katie Strang, says:

Our family [Charles, George, and Jabus Nowlin] arrived in Claresholm March 12, 1908, coming from Idaho Falls, Idaho. We were part of a train of settlers of 57 people in two [rail] cars, with livestock and effects in eighteen cars. Most of these people were related to each other in some way. We stayed at the Wilton Hotel until our furniture was hauled out to the farm south of Claresholm. The George Nowlin family [settled] on a farm five miles southwest of Claresholm. This half-section of land had been bought from the former owner.

Tragedy struck this family when they lost their son Rex, three days after their arrival.

Homesteading was carried on by George and Almeda. They had two more sons, Fay and Harvey (Tim), and later a daughter Lila. Soon after Lila's birth they moved to the Tovell place south of Claresholm. Their youngest son was born in 1916.

They took great interest in community life, George acting as secretary of Northern Light District, where they lived for many years. In 1930 the family moved to Macleod and to Banff, Alberta, in 1936. In 1953 Almeda and George moved to Calgary, where they remained until their deaths." (See obituary *The Calgary Herald*, 8 October 1954.)

Lydia Almeda died in Calgary, Alberta, 6 October 1954. George died in Calgary 25 February 1966.



**Figure 94.** Lydia Almeda Morgan Nowlin (1888-1954), George Washington Nowlin (1883-1966). Wedding 19 December 1906.



*Nelda Lila Nowlin Sharp, in 2004, wrote the following about her grandmother, Almeda:*

Life in Claresholm was probably exciting for Almeda and George. Entertainment was varied. Granny enjoyed the Chautauqua's and those traveling professional performers who entertained in huge tents. There were card games, ball games, quilting bees, bazaars, and dances. And if it was a dance to raise money for some worthy cause it was held in the Mormon church.

The Nowlins moved to Banff in 1936 and lived quietly there until 1954. The house they rented was on a crescent of friendly neighbors and all the children and grandchildren lived close enough to visit from time to time. Almeda had a reputation for being an excellent cook and housekeeper and in the summer she rented out rooms to tourists. She was a slim, pretty lady with wavy, gray hair.



**Figure 95.** Left to right: **Lydia Almeda Morgan Nowlin** (1888-1954), **George Washington Nowlin** (1883-1966), **Madge McConville Nowlin** (wife of Charles Fay Nowlin).

"My mother died when I was twelve," she told me. I remember a picture of her father, my great grandfather, an old man with a benign smile and a halo of white hair framing his face, his presence dominating the living room. Every night my grandmother would pause before a picture of her first born. She always said good night to "little Rex" [who had died as an infant]. She still grieved although he had been dead for nearly forty years.

And she grieved as well for her last born who was in a German prison camp during the war. His jackets hung forlornly on a rack in the hall. In the evenings she would wrap herself in Uncle Floyd's sweater, sit at the kitchen table and read and re-read her son's letters. She clipped poems of war from newspapers. I was too young to read but I heard them over and over until I memorized them.

In later years her health began to fail. Jim Davies, my cousin, remembers hauling a newborn fawn across the yard and up the stairs to her bedside to make Granny feel better. We all loved her.

In 1953 the Nowlins moved to Calgary to be closer to medical facilities. Almeda had heart problems and pernicious anemia. The Relief Society, the ladies who visited her with their baskets of fruit, was of great comfort to her. She died in Calgary General Hospital on 6 October 1954 at the age of 66 years. Her family was with her at the end. She was buried in Queen's Park Cemetery in Calgary.

Nelda Lila Nowlin Sharp, in 2004, wrote the following about her grandfather George Nowlin:

My grandfather, George Washington Nowlin, the seventh child of eleven was born 14 May 1883 in Nephi, Utah, to Jabus Townsend Nowlin and Maria Tolley.

The Jabus Nowlins lived in Bonneville County in the Willow Creek and Antelope areas of Idaho. They called their 1000-acre spread the Antelope Ranch, where they ran 5000 head of sheep. George and his brothers, Jabus and Charles, were herders. Charles Lloyd Nowlin (son of Charles Franklin Nowlin, George's brother) writes, "In those days George was young, strong, heavy, and quick. When the sheep were being sheared, George would tie the fleece and tamp it into sacks. He was good on the mouth organ [harmonica], and the hired girl (Almeda Morgan), who would later become my aunt by marriage to George, could chord on the organ." The couple probably met around 1904 and were married in 1906.

In 1907 George and brothers William Jabus and Charles Franklin, traveled by train from Idaho to look for land in southern Alberta, Canada, and in 1908, he, Almeda, and baby Rex, emigrated to Claresholm, Alberta. The Nowlins took a great interest in community affairs; for years, George was secretary of the Northern Light District. As grain farmers they lived through countless hardships; the "dirty thirties," drifting soil, dust storms, crop failure,

grasshopper plagues, a cyclone in 1928, and the crash of the Wall Street stock market in 1929.

In 1930 George and Almeda bought a section of land southwest of MacLeod, Alberta, its border facing onto the Piegan Indian Reserve. They lived there until 1936 when they moved to Banff, Alberta. From 1941 to 1951 George worked in the fire hall.

My grandparents had some unique words and expressions. Gramp called his suitcase his “grip.” And he would say “going overtown” as he was leaving to shop. Granny would holler “JARGE,” when she wanted to get his attention. He never swore but instead would sigh, “myohmyohomy, or “wellwellwell.”

George gave people nicknames. He called his children, Tim “Flat,” Floyd “Pog,” and Lila “Pete.” He loved to dance, even when in his eighties.

George Washington Nowlin embraced life, loved people, and hugged anyone who came within three feet of him. In later years he returned to his Mormon roots. He was baptized and confirmed and ordained as a teacher in the Aaronic priesthood.

Outliving all his siblings, he died on 25 February 1966 in the Calgary General Hospital and was buried in Queen’s Park Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Almeda and George’s Canadian-born children attended the Northern Light School near Claresholm, married, and had families in various parts of Alberta (see George’s obituary in *The Calgary Herald*, 26 February 1966).

The children of **Almeda Morgan and George Nowlin** are:

1. **George Rex Nowlin**, born 19 June 1907 in Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho, and died in Claresholm, Alberta, Canada, March 1908.
2. **Charles Fay Nowlin** (aka Fay), the second child of Lydia Almeda Morgan and George Nowlin, was born 17 November 1908 in Claresholm, Alberta, and died 8 December 1977 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He married **Margaret (Madge) McConville** and lived in Calgary, Alberta (Figure 96).

After finishing his public schooling, Fay attended and graduated from the Claresholm Agricultural College. His obituary in the *Calgary Herald*, 9 December 1977, states that “he was a packer and guide with Brewster and Company and a park warden in Banff National Park. He served with the Canadian Army as a ski instructor for the Lord Lovetts Scouts.” The obituary lists no children survivors but does list two brothers and a sister below. His nephew Jim Davies reports that Fay’s World War II duties included training British and American soldiers in cold weather survival techniques and skiing.





Figure 96. Charles Fay Nowlin (1908-1977), Madge McConville Nowlin.

3. **Thomas Harvey Nowlin** (aka Tim), the third child of Lydia Almeda Morgan and George Nowlin, was born 4 May 1911 in Claresholm, Alberta, and died 5 August 1997 in Calgary, Alberta, at age 86. He married **Louise Cox**, daughter of Joseph Morgan Cox and Lucinda Patterson, on 2 November 1935 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Louise was born 27 August 1907 in Monarch, Alberta, Canada. She died

22 May 1996 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Thomas (Tim) and his wife Louise were both cremated and the ashes of both were scattered on the hill in Cochrane overlooking the Men of Vision statue of a cowboy on a horse.



**Figure 97.** Louise Cox Nowlin (1907-1996), Thomas Harvey (Tim) Nowlin (1911-1997). Baby Nelda (born 1938).

*The following was written by daughter Gail Ramsay in 2004:*

Tim [Thomas] and Louise Nowlin were married on November 2, 1935 in Calgary, Alberta. They moved from Fort MacLeod to the Cochrane, Alberta area where they purchased the John Ireland place. The land is situated in what is known as the Montreal Valley and is at the head of Grand Valley Creek, formerly called the Coal Creek. They ran 75 to 100 head of horses and 35 to 40 head of cattle. Mom would supplement their income by staying with Gran and Gramp in Banff so she could work for periods of time. When she came home, she rode the bus as far as she could and then borrowed a horse to go the rest of the way. Dad worked the rigs in the Wildcat Hills for Royalite Oil. Both my sister and brother were born while they lived at the ranch. Nelda was born at Mineral Springs Hospital in Banff on February 26, 1938 and Tommy was born on February 12, 1943, also at Mineral Springs. Nelda was a very bright little girl and my parents had wonderful memories of her as a young child. She learned to ride a horse at a very young age and so fit well into the ranching life. For food they depended a lot on wild meat and berries and also did a lot of canning for winter food. Life at the ranch was very good; however, I expect it was becoming more and more evident that our brother Tommy was not flourishing and that there was need to be closer to medical care.

In 1945 my parents moved to Cochrane, having purchased a house and one acre of land from Sarah Robinson. Dad became a logging contractor and with a contract from Calgary Power, from 1949 to 1951, logged a big part of the area that is now Spray Lakes. He also worked at the Shell Gas Plant before turning his hand to carpentry. After study and working in the trade he challenged the provincial exam and became a Journeyman Carpenter on November 15, 1956. He was employed by Glenco, a Calgary builder, for several years. In 1959, he was hired by Indian Affairs to build houses with an all-native crew on the Stoney Indian Reserve. He worked with the natives for eight years, building up to 35 houses a year with up to 40 crewmembers. He also carpentered in the Cochrane area for a number of years before retiring. He lent his skills to the service clubs he was involved with, doing renovations on the Masonic Hall, helping to build the Cochrane Rodeo Grounds and the Cochrane Arena where his grandchildren figureskated and played hockey.

In 1958, Dad renovated a large old house that was moved onto their property and for many years Mom ran a very successful boarding house for men working on oil rigs around the Cochrane area. Later they moved another house onto the property which Dad made into suites. Revenue from their property allowed them to retire and enjoy life.

Mom was always able to come up with a good meal when friends or family dropped in. They always had a big garden and lots of meat in the freezer. They enjoyed gardening, keeping up their property, and spending time with their children and grandchildren.



"I [Gail] was born after my family moved from the ranch into Cochrane. I was born on December 14, 1946 at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. Our brother Thomas Morgan Nowlin lives at Michener Centre in Red Deer, Alberta. Michener is a facility for individuals with developmental disabilities. He has been a resident at this facility since he was ten years old. Tommy grew into a fine man with a great sense of humor and a love for music and his sisters. Bless him."

The children of **Thomas (Tim) and Louise Nowlin** were (*according to family records of Nelda Sharp and Patricia Gail Ramsay*):

- a. *Nelda Lila Nowlin* was born 26 February 1938 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. She married 20 August 1958 in Cochrane, Alberta, to William Malcolm Sharp, who was born 25 March 1936 in Lacombe, Alberta, son of William Howard Sharp and Helen Susan Margaret Suitor.
  - b. *Thomas Morgan Nowlin*, was born 12 February 1943 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. He never married.
  - c. *Patricia Gail Nowlin* was born 14 December 1946 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She married 4 December 1965 in Calgary, Alberta, to Wallace Ramsay (aka Tuff), born 30 July 1941 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, son of Donald Allan Ramsay and Shirley May Satchwell.
4. **Lila Jane Nowlin**, the fourth child of Lydia Almeda Morgan and George Nowlin, was born 25 February 1913 in Claresholm, Willow Creek, Alberta, Canada, and died 29 April 1980 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Lila married in 1937 in Banff, Alberta, to



**Figure 98. Bert and Lila Davies family.** Left to right: Gordon Max (Tad) Davies (1942-1960), Hubert Charles (Bert) Davies (1907-1973), James Morgan Davies (1938-), Lila Jane Nowlin Davies (1913-1980).

**Hubert Charles Davies** (aka Bert), who was born 22 April 1907 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, son of Hubert Davies and Mabel (Warren). He died 25 April 1973 in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

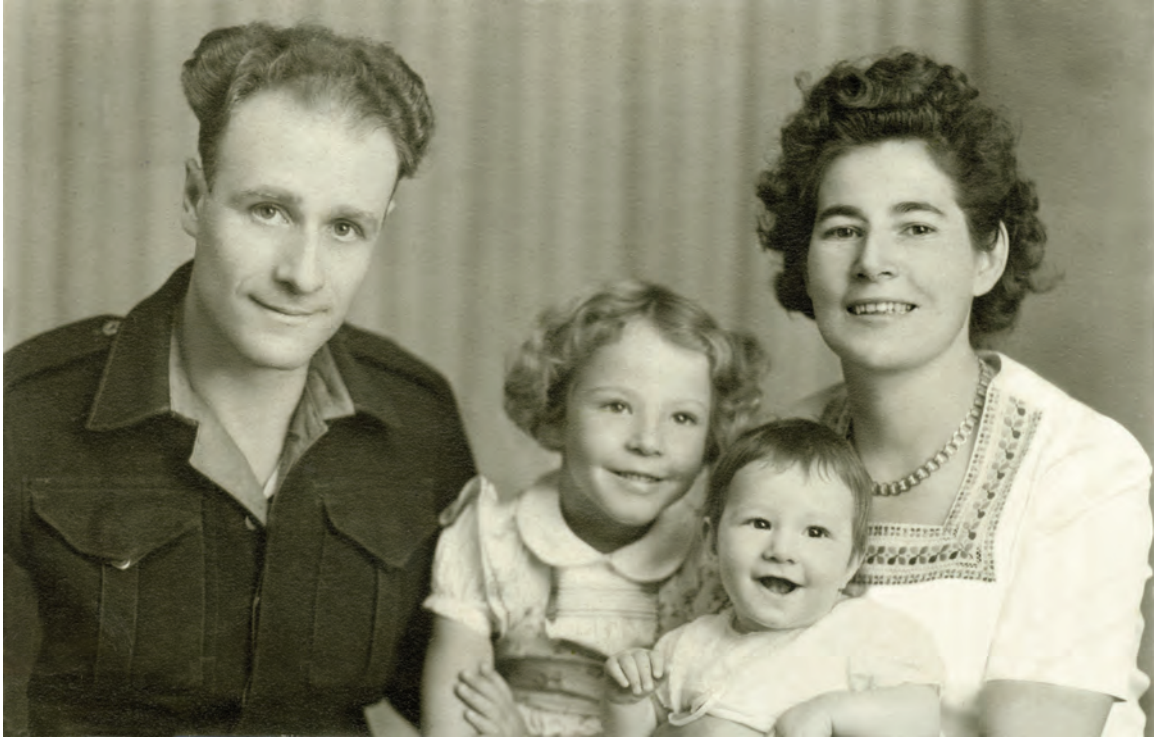
Before Lila was married, she moved with her parents in the 1930s to Banff, Alberta. In 1937 she met and married Bert Davies, who had grown up on a farm in Vermilion, Alberta. But because Vermilion at that time did not have a high school, he went to live with his uncle Jack Warren in Banff, where he later met Lila Nowlin. According to a life sketch of Bert written by his son James, during World War II Bert was in the Canadian Army. He was stationed part of the time in a prison camp in Ontario Province where he worked as a guard. After the war he and Lila settled in Banff, where he worked for about seven years as a warden for Banff National Park, along with his brother-in-law, Fay Nowlin. His duties for the Park Service included long ski patrols to and beyond Lake Louise in the mountains north of Banff.

Their son Jim Davies writes that when he was a boy the young Davies family spent a few years at Saskatchewan River Crossing several miles north of Banff. While there the Davies had some peaceful encounters with native Indians who sometimes came to their home to trade their handcrafted goods for cans of food. Jim specifically remembered a beautiful beaded moose hide jacket and gloves the Indians had made and presented to the Davies family.

In 1945 Bert Davies left the National Park (Warden) Service and started a trucking business which he maintained until the mid 1960s when he sold his equipment and retired. In 1973 Bert died of a sudden heart attack at the age of 66. Lila suffered a heart attack in 1980 and also died at the age of 66.

The children of **Lila Nowlin and Bert Davies** were (*according to the records of Nelda Sharp and James Morgan Davies*):

- a. *James Morgan Davies*, was born in 30 January 1938 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. In 1965 he married Siri Strom, daughter of Erling Strom. They had one son in August 1965. In 1967 Jim and Siri divorced and Siri and son Morgan moved to Vancouver. In 1970 Jim married Susan Blanche Corless and had no children with her. After a career as a helicopter pilot in Banff and in Banff National Park, he and Susan retired in 1990 to the Saanich Peninsula, Vancouver Island.
  - b. *Gordon Max Davies* (aka Tad), was born in 1942 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. He died at age 18 of kidney failure on 9 September 1960 in Banff, Alberta, Canada.
5. **Floyd Ernest Nowlin**, the fifth child of Lydia Almeda Morgan and George Nowlin, was born 27 December 1916 in Claresholm, Alberta, Canada, and died 13 May 1994 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He married 8 January 1946 in Calgary, Alberta, to **Mary Dorothy Hope Pelham-Clinton** (aka Hope), who was born 29 July 1916 in Capetown, Western Cape, South Africa. She was the daughter of Francis Lorraine Clyde Claude Pelham-Clinton and Jessie Cromwell. She brought her daughter



**Figure 99. Floyd and Hope Nowlin family.** Left to right: Floyd Ernest Nowlin (1916-1994), Elaine Nowlin, Faith Nowlin, Mary Dorothy Hope (Pelham-Clinton) Nowlin (1916-1990).

Elaine to the marriage. They lived most of their married lives in Calgary, where both were nurses. She died 19 September 1990 in Calgary and is buried in Queen's Park Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Daughter Faith Toth wrote of her father, "Dad was a great lover of classical music and could play the piano by ear. He had a great sense of adventure which led him to join the Calgary Highlanders, who were sent to England during the Second World War in 1941. Dad was captured by the Germans and survived as a prisoner of war in a camp in the former Czechoslovakia. During his internment as a prisoner of war, Dad lost about 50 pounds; however, his thoughts of my future mother, Hope, kept him going."

Writing in 1981, Hope says:

In 1939 Floyd joined the Calgary Highlanders and went overseas to the European Front. By this time he was working with the Army Medical Corps of the Calgary Highlanders battalion. He was taken prisoner-of-war for ten months. He, along with other prisoners, was taken on a thousand-mile hike across Europe by the Nazi troops. They quite often marched on an empty stomach. Diarrhea and diphtheria were some of the sicknesses that afflicted these men, but they still had to march on. If they fell to the ground, they were shot. Floyd recalls that Czechoslovakian peasants came to them with hot potatoes one day, which were very good to eat. Finally the prisoners were



released by General Patton's troops. Floyd returned home to Banff in 1945. Later he moved to Calgary, taking up nursing at the Colonel Belcher Hospital until he retired in 1973." (*The George Nowlins.*)

**Floyd and Mary Hope Nowlin** had the following children (*from family records of Nelda Sharp and Elaine Appleby*):

- a. *Elaine Nowlin* was born 21 March 1942 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, daughter of Mary Hope Pelham-Clinton. Elaine married Leon F. Appleby, born 14 March 1935 in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada, son of Geoffrey Robert George Appleby and Nellie Woodward.
- b. *Faith Nowlin* was born 4 December 1946 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She married Paul Toth, who was born in 1937 in Budapest, Pest, Hungary. Paul was a refugee of the Hungarian uprising against the Communists in 1956. Faith was his second marriage.
- c. *George Nowlin* was born 10 February 1952 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

#### Sources

"The George Nowlins." 1981 typescript of the George Nowlin family by Hope Nowlin.  
*Where the Wheatlands Meet the Range*, Claresholm History Club, 1974, pages 214, 387, 388.  
 Family sketch and information provided by James Morgan Davies.  
 Family records of Nelda and Malcolm Sharp.  
 Family records of Patricia Nowlin Ramsay.  
 Pelham-Clinton Family History typescript written by Mary Hope Pelham-Clinton Nowlin, 1981.



**Figure 100.** Thomas Morgan (1821-1915) portrait in oval wood frame that was found in a picture collection once owned by Lydia Almeda Morgan Nowlin. It was passed down to her descendants and remains in Canada as of this writing. A number of large portraits of Thomas Morgan, mounted in either oval or rectangular frames and made to be hung on the wall, are still in the possession of his descendants. That these relatively expensive pictures were made by his family members, and presumably hung on the walls of their homes, suggests that they held Thomas in high regard.

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